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Kent on Sunday

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New enquiry into Tiltman murder gives best friend a ray of hope

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE best friend of murdered schoolgirl Claire Tiltman said she has complete faith in the police team to finally crack the 20-year-old mystery.

It comes after police this week sent forensic teams to the home of the parents of Colin Ash-Smith, a man police quizzed over Claire's killing at the time.

The 16-year-old, known to her friends as 'Tilt', was brutally stabbed to death as she walked to visit a friend close to her home in Greenhithe.

Despite constant appeals, her murderer has never been found – with both Claire's parents, Linda and Cliff, dying before seeing justice for their only child.

Speaking to KoS on Friday, Claire's best friend, Lisa Gribbin, who set up the Justice for Claire campaign, said she clung to the hope the killer would one day be caught.

She said: "I am pleased to see the police are very active in their investigations with Tilt's case, but I so wish Linda and Cliff were alive to see the love so many people had for Claire and how much people still care.

"She should never have been taken away from us all.

"I'm very mindful of hopes getting built up and so will just watch as the situation unfolds.

"I put my trust fully in the hands of Detective Chief Inspector Rob Vinson and his team who are all working so hard to bring closure for Tilt and her parents. May they rest in peace."

Detectives investigating the murder once again insisted this week no stone would be left unturned until the killer was found.

The pledge by Kent Police's cold case investigation team follows a search of a

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TRAGIC: Claire Tiltman was just 16 when she was brutally stabbed to death in 1993

ENERGY

Solar panels fire fresh row

FIELDS of solar panels, designed to become a key component in the generation of a new breed of green energy, have found themselves at the centre of controversy.

In a special report inside, we take a look at how the county is responding to a shift from traditional fuels. **PAGE 4**

POLITICS

Pickles denies rude outburst

GOVERNMENT minister Eric Pickles has strenuously denied accusations he swore at protestors who confronted him during a visit to Maidstone.

Campaigners challenged him on his decision to allow the Oaken Wood development to go ahead during his visit to meet a local MP. **PAGE 6**

TRANSPORT

Rail station's £26m move

COUNCIL chiefs gave the go ahead this week for one of the county's railway stations to be relocated.

Network Rail was given permission to push ahead with £26m plans which will see Rochester's mainline station moved to a car park nearer the town centre. **PAGE 30**

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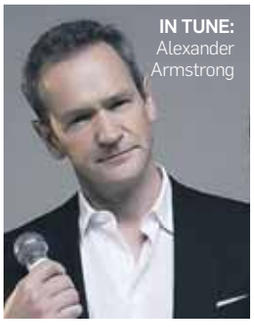

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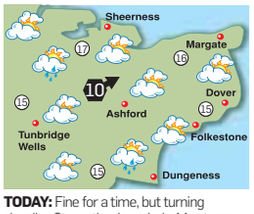

TODAY: Fine for a time, but turning cloudier. Strengthening winds. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F). **TONIGHT:** Rain spreading south-east. Min temp 10-13C (50-55F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	07.51	5.6	20.37	5.8
Margate	08.30	4.1	21.24	4.3
St Mary's	01.12	4.5	13.54	4.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 15C	Min 7C
Tuesday	Max 15C	Min 8C
Wednesday	Max 15C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 16C	Min 8C
Friday	Max 17C	Min 8C
Saturday	Max 18C	Min 10C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CRIME

New evidence sees house searched in investigation of murder 20 years ago

Continued from front page

property in Stone, Dartford, on Thursday belonging to the parents of Colin Ash-Smith.

Former milkman Ash-Smith was quizzed but never charged over Claire's death, but was given three life sentences in 1997 for attacks on women, including the frenzied stabbing of 22-year-old Charlotte Barnard in October 1995, just yards from the alleyway where Claire was murdered.

His father, who still lives at the house, insisted his son was innocent of the crime and called on the police to stop "hounding" him and his wife.

Dartford Grammar School pupil Claire had turned 16 just four days before she was attacked as she walked down an alleyway close to her home in Greenhithe in the early evening of January 18, 1993. She had been due to visit a friend.

She was stabbed more than 40 times and died as she tried to crawl to get help on the busy A226 London Road.

No-one has ever been charged with the murder. There were no further arrests this week.

MURDER SCENE: The alleyway where Claire Tiltman was stabbed in 1983

On Thursday, officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate Cold Case Investigation Team entered the property in Stone and were seen leaving with evidence bags.

A force spokesman said the search was as a result of following new lines of enquiry and intelligence.

"Kent Police doesn't like to leave cases like this unsolved," he said. "Investigations are continuing but that's all we can say as it's a live case."

The force said it was standard practice to regularly review undetected murders.

MP for Dartford Gareth Johnson said he was reassured to hear the fight to find Claire's killer was on-going.

"Clearly the effort to secure justice for Claire continues," he said.

"I am reassured that Kent Police is working diligently, leaving no stone unturned to bring Claire's killer to justice.

"This is very much an active investigation and that should be welcomed."

Her mother Linda died from cancer in 2008, aged 53, and her father, Cliff, died on September 14 last year. He was 62.

Speaking from his bed in a nursing home on the 19th anniversary of Claire's death in January 2012, he said: "It would mean everything to me to find out, after all these years, who did this to Claire. It has been a long time, but I've never given up hope and never will.

"I can't begin to put into words how this has affected our family. Claire has gone. Her mum has gone. I try to stay strong but will still hide and cry my eyes out for an hour. She was a good kid. I miss her to bits."

Claire would have been 36 now.

She had been studying for her GCSEs with the dream of becoming a firefighter.

After Mr Tiltman's death, Detective Chief Inspector Rob Vinson vowed not to close the case until the killer was brought to justice.

"This isn't the end of our investigation; we have always maintained that someone has information about this murder and we will continue to investigate it," he said.

Earlier this year her friends staged a memorial walk and church service, organised by Mrs Gribbin, to mark the 20th anniversary of her death.

Mrs Gribbin added: "We have been overwhelmed with the support we've had from everyone since we started the Justice for Claire campaign.

"The website was struggling on Thursday to cope with the amount of people trying to get on to it."

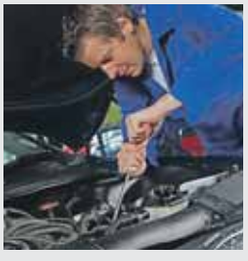
See www.justiceforclaire.co.uk for details about the campaign.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT MONTH

Education
September 22
Ensure your child gets the best possible start in life by keeping up to date with their learning.

Festive parties
September 29
It may seem like a long way off, but don't miss our guide to the best Christmas parties

Main Dealer Servicing
November 10
Keep your motor in tip top condition at a dealership



Motability
Kent on Sunday
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ENTERTAINMENT

BIG DUD: Watts plays the title role in Diana which charts her final years and the relationship with surgeon Hasnat Khan, played by Naveen Andrews (below)

Watts stars in disaster movie of a different kind as biopic gets panned

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AFTER receiving the plaudits – and an Academy Award nomination – for her role in tsunami disaster movie The Impossible, actress Naomi Watts has returned to earth with a bump for her latest film performance.

In what was always going to be a controversial outing, the 44-year-old, who was born and raised in Kent, has been panned by the critics for her title role in a movie based around the life of Diana, Princess of Wales. The national icon died in a car crash in a Paris underpass in 1997, along with new love Dodi al Fayed.

Now the much publicised biopic Diana, due for general release on September 20, has been described as "atrocious" and "intrusive" by critics.

It will be a blow to the star who grew up in Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, and got her first taste of acting while watching her mother perform on stage for local amateur dramatics group, the Shoreham Players.

But it is unlikely to diminish her status as one of Hollywood's big hitters, after screen success in the likes of Mulholland Drive, the remake of King Kong and horror film The Ring.

Her latest offering charts Diana's turbulent final two years after her divorce from Prince Charles, covering her charity work and love affair with British Pakistani heart surgeon Hasnat Khan.

But critics have been scathing in their reviews.

David Edwards, film critic for The Mirror newspaper, described it as "a cheap and cheerless effort that looks like a Channel 5 midweek matinee" with the main character as the Queen of Hearts "recast as a sad-sack singleton that even Bridget Jones would cross the street to avoid".

He gave it just one star out of five.

In the Daily Mail, Christopher Tookey wrote: "It's slow and terribly, terribly dull."

MUM'S PASSION HAD 'DRAMATIC' EFFECT ON NAOMI

NAOMI Watts was born in 1968 to Welsh mother Myfanwy and father Peter – a sound engineer with Pink Floyd – who left when she was four years old. He later died of a drug overdose in London when she was eight.

Her mother's amateur dramatics with the Shoreham Players inspired Naomi to go into acting, appearing on stage in the Kent village.

She said: "I never thought of being a movie star, but loved performing. In our village there was a little theatre group called the Shoreham Players. Every festive season they would put on a play. They did Mary Poppins one year. I sang and my mother and stepfather teased me because I was so off-key."

Aged 14, she moved with her mother and brother to Australia where she took acting lessons alongside a young Nicole Kidman, appearing in TV soap Home and Away before moving to the US in search of fame.

EVENT

Airshow to jet back in

ORGANISERS of the Folkestone Airshow say it will return in 2014 - despite this year's event being called off after failing to secure sufficient financial support.

Now under new management from Open Air Promotions, and with "considerable" financial support already in place, it will take the form of a two-day show across the weekend of June 7-8.

Entrance will remain free.

CRIME

Charge over Cregan

A 57-year-old man from Herne Bay has been charged with assisting police killer Dale Cregan.

Jack Willbye, of Chapel Street, appeared at Manchester Magistrates Court alongside his son, Samuel Willbye, 28, who lives in Wythenshawe, near Manchester. Both are charged with conspiring to assist an offender.

The charges relate to the period when Cregan and two friends were hunted by police.

DEATH

Farewell to Sir David

THE funeral of writer and broadcaster Sir David Frost took place at a church in Oxfordshire on Thursday, nearly two weeks after the 74-year-old died following a heart attack on a cruise ship.

Born in Tenterden, and raised in Gillingham, a public memorial service is expected to be announced soon. Those attending his funeral included Stephen Fry and Ronnie Corbett.

MEDIA

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See inside for more.

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ALL CHANGE: Kent on Sunday given a redesign

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POWER

There's a new shadow hanging over the green energy debate

We take a look at the latest obstacle muddying the path to clean power

By Marijke Cox and Chris Murphy
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IT'S a fight in which both sides continue to stand resolute.

But as the battle over renewables and fossil fuels rages, another issue, quite separate from the underlying arguments of these two energy supplies, is starting to arise, which could cause conflict in the ranks.

Renewables are, by definition, the good guys in the overall energy dispute; the sustainable supply using natural elements such as wind or solar which will arguably do little, if anything, to damage the planet.

The baddies – excluding nuclear for the moment – are finite fossil fuels; a cheap, unsustainable energy source which, when burned, releases greenhouse gas emissions.

But there is a subsidiary problem arising, particularly with renewables, threatening to cause infighting between campaigners.

And it's all based around location.

Despite support across the county for solar energy, for example, fears are huge swathes of stunning countryside will be eaten up by huge solar farms. And with Kent emerging as, if not a revolutionary for future energy supplies, then at least a big player in this controversial field, a resolution needs to be found.

In West Kingsdown, a firm called Hive Energy wants to put a solar farm on a 93-acre site between Crowhurst Lane and Fawkham Road, with the panels hidden using tall hedges.

A planning application has been submitted to Sevenoaks council, with a decision expected on November 14.

If given the nod, it would produce up to 16 megawatts of electricity each year – enough to power around 6,500 homes. It would also cut CO2 emissions by 7,740 tonnes a year.

Great for supporters of renewable energy; not so much for those living in the village who value their rural surroundings.

Residents argue it will completely ruin the nature of the area and would be built on precious greenfield land.

Bill Brett is one of these concerned.

He explains: "This industrial-scale development is totally unsuitable and out of place in the midst of a small rural village. It will transform the nature of the area, spoiling it for the majority and be devastating for the people who have properties next to the development."

Hive's commercial director, Tim Purbick, told KoS that once the planning decision was made by the council, the company would assess a way forward.

He added: "People on the whole don't like change, but everybody wants to turn their lights on and charge their iPhones. We need renewable energy and this is a good site."

He said crops could still be grown between panels and sheep could graze beneath them.

The firm confirmed it was continuing to look for other sites in Kent.

Kent's Green Party is steadfast in its opposition of development on greenfield land. It is also, however, strong in its view that renewables, such as solar, are the future and will curb climate change.

So when it comes to protecting greefield and the Green Belt or pushing forward with its renewable energy agenda, which comes first?

Steve Dawe at Kent Green Party believes each case should be treated individually.

"The party supports solar farm developments to add to UK renewable electricity and to provide another income stream to landowners," he said.

"Every such development should be looked at carefully to see what use can be made of the land involved. It is possible to continue some forms of cultivation alongside solar developments and screening of particularly intrusive developments should be considered.

"Some landowners may find it acceptable and equally effective to put solar panels on existing farm buildings, and keep productive agricultural land in use to help cut the UK's food imports and contribute to Kent's expanding network of farmers' markets."

Another controversial renewable development is a solar farm in Hothfield, near Ashford.

Campaigners warn it will encroach on greenfield land and change the character of the area.

A spokesman from RAGE (Residents Against Greenfield Exploitation) said: "The race to cash in on solar energy has begun in earnest and it is not 'targeted on industrial roofs, homes and on brownfield sites' as the energy minister has stated he wants.

"Instead, swathes of productive and beautiful fields are under threat.

"More than a dozen local applications are being mooted, with the result that we are at risk of seeing farmland around Ashford turned into patchworks of photovoltaic arrays.

"These industrial-scale applications can quite easily cover enormous acreages, blight homes, see fertile arable land lost and change the character of our area.

"The proposed site for Hothfield lies on productive farmland within an area bordered by the Greensand Way, the Stour Valley walk and Hothfield Heathlands, the last substantial area of heathland and valley bogs in Kent."

Campaigners also warn of heavily laden trucks coming back and forth along quiet rural roads during construction.

In Canterbury, a firm called Lighthouse Renewable Energy has announced it wants to build solar arrays at Woodland Farm near Calcott.

It would provide enough power to run more than 2,600 homes.

Another is planned for Nackington as well as Old Wives Lees, covering 101 hectares, which would be located at the foot of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, is supportive of renewable energy, but points out the need to be careful about where they are located.

"It is neither sustainable, nor making the best use of our land, to put large solar farms on high quality agricultural land which is currently producing something more important – food," said spokesman Jamie Weir. "We believe solar should be located in the best possible places which will be sustainable over the longer term.

"Industrialisation of our countryside with large solar farms which impact on the visual amenity of our landscapes and also on our ability to produce food is not the best or most sustainable solution for the future."

Offshore wind farms have also become part of Kent's green energy revolution.

Not only does the county already boast the world's biggest offshore wind farm off the Thanet coast, the London Array, but it has the Kentish Flats off Whitstable.

Expense, however, is a problem.

Building the London Array, for example, cost a staggering £1.8 billion.

Even the Prime Minister admitted, to KoS at the official opening, there needed to be a cheaper way of doing things, particularly as the funding comes partly from government subsidies. Then

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again, Whitehall recently revealed cuts to subsidies, throwing into doubt its green agenda.

David Cameron has also admitted the controversial gas extraction technique fracking should become part of Britain's future energy supply.

But Kent Green Party has warned of a "fracking frenzy" in the county.

It follows confirmation the British Geological Survey is reviewing the shale oil and shale gas resource potential of the Weald area on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

"If significant gas reserves are located then companies such as Midmar Energy, IGas and Cuadrilla, who already hold DECC exploration licences, will descend upon some of the most beautiful parts of Kent to begin a fracking frenzy," said party spokesman Ian Driver.

"Apart from destroying picturesque landscapes, growing evidence demonstrates fracking pollutes water supplies, causes earthquakes and releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere."

The focus had previously been on Cowden near Tunbridge Wells, where test drilling took place in 2010, by Cuadrilla – the firm behind the drilling in Blackpool which is believed to have been responsible for two minor earthquakes – as well as land near Woodnesborough, by Sandwich, which saw Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd given the green light to carry out exploratory work.

The firm has now submitted three new planning applications to Kent County Council, this time to explore for methane gas at Guston off Pineham Lane, Eythorne – at the former Tilmanstone colliery – and south west of Puckland Wood at Shepherdswell, all in the Dover district.

Decisions are expected in November.

It hints to a possible fossil fuel revolution in Kent, something many of the county's MPs seem to support.

Gareth Johnson, Tory MP for Dartford, is in favour of fracking.

He explains: "It is not a new method of extracting shale gas, it has been used in the UK since the 1940s. It has a good track record of not causing environmental damage.

"In the USA, where fracking is far more common, gas prices have fallen considerably.

"There is therefore the potential for shale gas to make a positive contribution to both energy security and gas prices over here.

"In fact, there is the potential for shale gas to provide for our gas needs for decades to come and inject billions into our economy and create thousands of new jobs. We cannot ignore this."

But he stressed the issue had to be approached with care.

"The environmental concerns that exist with this process should not be brushed aside," he said. "There is a good chance that many of our energy demands could be met by this developing technology; shale gas presents a huge opportunity for this country.

"Yet it would be irresponsible not to take heed of the environmental concerns that also come with this process."

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP, Gordon Henderson, added: "My opinion is that shale gas has the potential to dramatically reduce energy bills in Britain and as long as its extraction can be done without adversely affecting our environment or the communities involved, then I think it should go ahead."

But communities somewhere will always be affected, whether it's the villagers in Hothfield and West Kingsdown with the solar farms, the residents living near potential drilling sites in east and west Kent, or even those living near Dungeness – a nuclear power station which has been granted an extension to stay open until 2018 or even 2023.

Change is never easy. Society didn't want coal mines, yet they were eventually embraced and their passing was mourned when the programme of closures began.

Whether a supporter of renewables or somebody who backs fossil fuels, is the main fight actually to stop whatever energy source it is from being developed in our back yard?

POWER HERITAGE

The county's power generation sources have changed dramatically in recent years, with the closure of several major sites.

Richborough Power Station

The Thanet complex, pictured right, ceased production in 1996 after legal challenges over the environmental impact of the oil and water emulsion it was using, called Orimulsion. Its distinctive towers were demolished last year.

Kingsnorth Power Station

A landmark on the Hoo Peninsula, the coal-fired station, left, closed down last December after it reached the end of its permitted life, in line with restrictions on coal-powered stations.

Dungeness Nuclear Power Station

Once a two-reactor plant, right, Dungeness A closed in 2006. Reactor B is assured until 2018 and may be extended. Hopes of creating a C reactor are on ice after lack of Government support.

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Cocaine found amid cargo of bananas

BORDER Force officers at Dover have seized a haul of cocaine from a cargo ship estimated to have a street value running into "millions of pounds".

The boat, the MV Lady Korcula, had been carrying bananas from Ecuador.

Two men, from Ecuador, have been charged.

POLITICS

Pickles denies swearing at quarry protest group before lunch with MP

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COMMUNITIES secretary Eric Pickles has denied he swore at demonstrators while on a recent visit to Maidstone.

The angry response follows accusations he called a Lib Dem campaigner a "little s**t" when pressed over a controversial decision which gave the nod for the destruction of local ancient woodland.

Mr Pickles, one of the Coalition's most high-profile ministers, had been challenged en route to a lunch meeting with Maidstone MP Helen Grant, which she had widely publicised.

According to Maidstone borough councillor Tony Harwood – who attended the peaceful demonstration – Mr Pickles was "disinterested and evasive", becoming angry when questioned about the controversial development at Oaken Wood.

Mr Pickles, secretary of state for communities and local government, sparked controversy earlier this year when he gave the go-ahead to allow 88 acres of ancient woodland to be destroyed to make way for the extension of an existing ragstone quarry.

Cllr Harwood told KoS: "The key issue from my perspective is that local representatives were trying to have a polite conversation with him and yet he was dismissive and evasive.

ROW: Pickles (centre) denies swearing

"He didn't seem to know much about the case, and when we questioned him he said it was decided by his officials.

"I told him he should take responsibility in his role as secretary of state. He was trying to pass the blame and this is when he lost it.

"I'm surprised that an individual in high office who must deal with searching questions and the hurly-burly of politics would react that way."

But when put to Mr Pickles, he told us: "This is simply not true and has no basis in fact."

Others in the crowd, however, backed Cllr Harwood.

Kathryn Smith, from Barming, said: "I was amazed when he swore at Tony. The whole attitude of Pickles was contemptuous."

Mr Pickles gave the go-ahead in July for a quarry in Barming to be extended 32 hectares into the 400-year-old woodland.

It raised a question mark over the future of other ancient woodland and the matter has now gone to the High Court, with a temporary block on plans, secured by Lib Dem campaigner Jasper Gerard.

Commenting after Mr Pickles' visit, Mr Gerard said: "I am staggered he should react so arrogantly to Maidstone people who were simply asking him to actually visit the ancient wood he has decided to chop down. All the residents were impeccably behaved."

Cllr Harwood said Mr Pickles' attitude was a "disgrace" and called on Mrs Grant to "distance herself from him".

But Mrs Grant said she was delighted Mr Pickles had taken the time to revisit Maidstone and was a "pleasure to welcome".

She said: "The secretary of state refutes the comments attributed to him by Lib Dem activists."

Advertisement Feature

Sofa So Good as Clarkes Clears 1/2 Million Pounds of Sofas & Beds

Maidstone turned into mayhem as Clarkes Furnishers started clearing their stock of beds, sofas and furniture at shockingly reduced prices to make way for a state-of-the-art shop facelift and brand new ranges.

The Friday 13th public opening of the £428,000 clearance saw queues running down Sandling Road as customers jostled for the best bargains.

Fresh from scooping Interiors Monthly Magazine's 2013 Annual Awards as the UK's Best Furniture Retailer, voted by manufacturers and suppliers from across the furniture industry for qualities ranging from customer service to presentation, the 84-year-old store isn't resting on its laurels, says Managing Director Jonathan Watts.

"We always strive to bring the best and latest in furniture to our customers and to do that we need to be selling off all excess stock before refurbishing and replenishing the store," said Jonathan. "Friday 13th was an incredibly lucky day for bargain hunters and a great day for the business with lots of happy customers finding the right bargain, but there's still plenty of great deals on stock to be had, and the lowest price on special orders too."

Its revamp is the work of architect Richard Jones of Canterbury, who was commissioned in 2010 to redesign nearby sister store, Lenleys. It will mean changing both the exterior as well as the entire product range for a fresh new feel in the spring of 2014, says Jonathan.

Andy Symonds, sales manager of Clarkes, said: "In this refurbishment sale there really is something for everyone at unbelievable prices. In preparation for our forthcoming revamp and a new look we are selling off showroom models from great names like G Plan, Ercol, Stressless and Tempur as well as sofas, dining sets, coffee tables and objets dar't. At these prices the stock will sell fast so come along this week and see for yourself, you can be assured of a warm welcome and a great bargain."

Clarkes will be closed on Wednesday, Sept 18, to allow for extra stock to come from its warehouse to extend the sale.

With over 16,000 sq ft of furniture and beds displayed over two floors, there is a huge choice.

"It is a one-off opportunity as we're selling off our wares at the cheapest ever prices in the context of today's market," says Jonathan. "Customers can also order the new stock in advance, and that will also be at the cheapest ever prices."

For more information, go to www.clarkesfurnishers.co.uk or find them on Facebook and Twitter @clarkes_blog, or come in and visit at Clarkes Furnishers, 33 Sandling Road, Maidstone, ME14 2RF

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Price reductions will also be given on all special orders.

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Jonathan Watts- Managing Director

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EDEN LARGE CORNER UNIT WAS £2508 NOW £1684
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WINSOR DINING TABLE & 6 X OILED OAK CHAIRS WAS £1689 NOW £994

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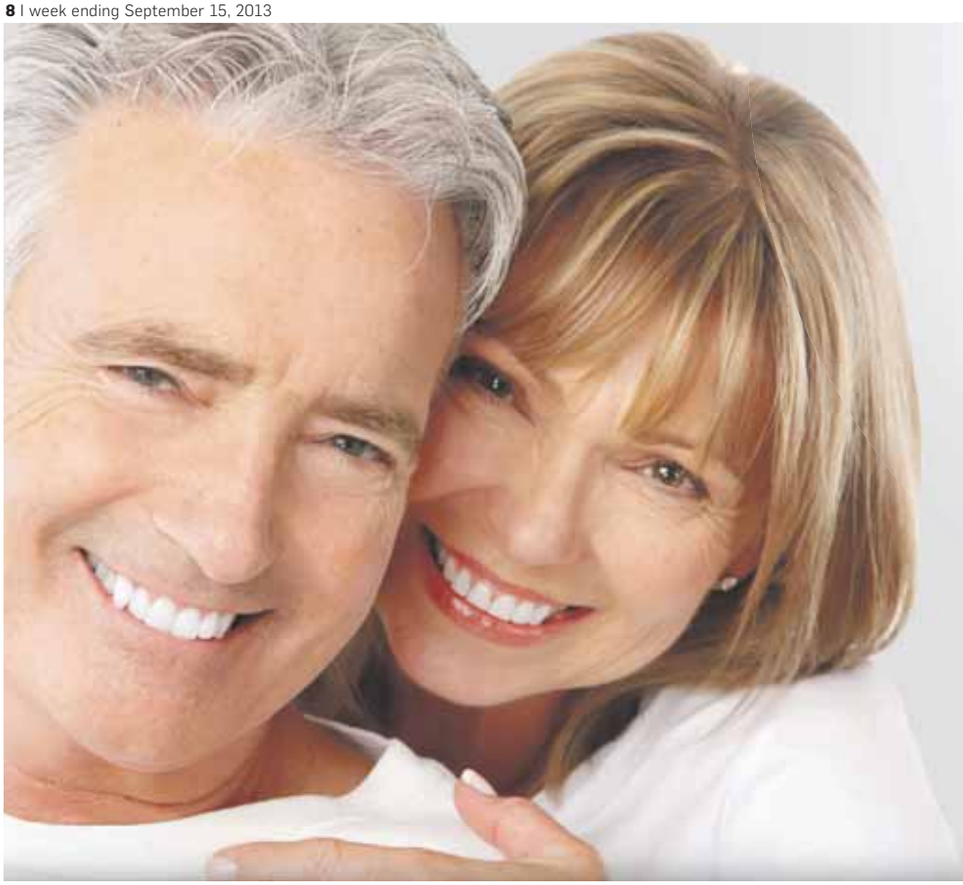

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SECURITY

Police: Public safety the priority in 'challenging situation' of bomb scare

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A FULL investigation into the handling of the security alert at the Dartford Crossing last Friday night is under way.

Traffic was stopped for up to nine hours after a man was spotted getting off a Dover-bound coach and acting suspiciously.

The ensuing chaos also prompted the local MP to once again call for a future third Thames crossing not to be situated in Dartford (see box).

The alarm was raised at around 4pm on September 6 when the man was seen running into nearby undergrowth. Security at a nearby distribution depot detained the man and police arrested him at around 4.15pm.

While being quizzed, he made threats about a suspicious device on board the coach.

The coach, which had just gone through the toll booths, was evacuated, as was the immediate surrounding area. The area was packed with traffic at the time.

Kent Police officers removed a heavily sealed bag from the coach that appeared to contain a suspicious looking item – a cylindrical device with wires.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team attended the scene and a robotic device was deployed to examine the object more closely.

Occupants of the coach were taken to a nearby rest centre and interviewed by officers. They were eventually reunited with their coach and luggage and allowed to continue on their journey in the early hours of Saturday.

The detained man also made further threats that there was an explosive device on another coach. Officers stopped a coach at 6pm on the A20 at Dover and it was evacuated. The road was closed.

Those on board were taken to a rest centre whilst the investigation progressed. No threat was found and the occupants were eventually allowed to continue on their journey. The A20 reopened at around 10.45pm.

Assistant Chief Constable Rob Price, said: "We were dealing with a very challenging situation, with two scenes in extremely busy areas. Our main priority was to ensure the safety of the public, our officers and our partners at the scene.

"We had received threats of a very serious nature that required regional and national co-ordination and declared this as a critical incident. Obviously a lot of people were caught up in long delays but this could not be avoided as we had to ensure public safety and as soon as clearance was obtained the road was immediately opened."

The 27-year-old man arrested, from Bournemouth in Dorset, has been detained under the Mental Health Act and taken to a secure unit.

He continues to be under the care of the health authority.

CLOSED: Motorists were left waiting at Dartford Crossing for up to nine hours last Friday night

TRAPPED IN TRAFFIC

University student Nadia Khalaf was one of those caught in the traffic chaos until after 11pm.

She said: "People were getting out of their cars, babies, children, dogs, everyone wondering when they could be on their way.

"I was pretty desperate for a drink; luckily a very kind lady had supplies as they had driven from Scotland. I am a fit, healthy young woman, I have no idea how those younger and older would have coped without any water or food.

"I found it really quite annoying that the police couldn't have at least walked over the bridge and checked everyone was okay – or at least updated us with what was happening.

"It was surreal seeing so many people walking dogs up and down the bridge, and I really felt for those with babies and children, especially as we were getting no help."

Dartford MP Gareth Johnson was also caught up in the delays and has some sympathy for the police, although he believes more help and information should have been provided to trapped motorists.

The Conservative politican said: "The police are in many ways damned if they do and damned if they don't when dealing with issues of this nature.

"They have to take these kind of threats on the Dartford Crossing seriously and in doing so it inevitably leads to significant delays.

"Having said that, we need to learn the lessons from Friday's incident. I have met with the secretary of state for transport about the incident and I am meeting soon with the borough's chief superintendent so that we can look at ways of improving things for drivers who were kept waiting at the crossing for an incredibly long period of time."

Mr Johnson was also quick to suggest that the congestion added strength to the case to not build any new Thames crossing in the Dartford area.

He added: "An additional crossing next to the existing one would only serve to increase the delays drivers face whenever an incident like this takes place."

Discount to residents' travel pass

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin has unveiled improvements to the existing discount scheme for locals using the Dartford Crossing.

For those living nearby who are registered on the resident discount scheme, they will now be able to make unlimited trips over the crossing for just £20 a year.

The existing scheme, which allows motorists to pay £10 for 50 trips a year and 20p for each thereafter, will continue.

Around 4,000 local people are expected to benefit from the move, although it will only be possible to register one vehicle, a car or a van, per resident at each address.

Mr McLoughlin said: "Local business people use the crossing regularly to make deliveries. At a cost of just over 5p a day we will help thousands of small firms to keep costs down as well as saving money for those in the residents' discount scheme."

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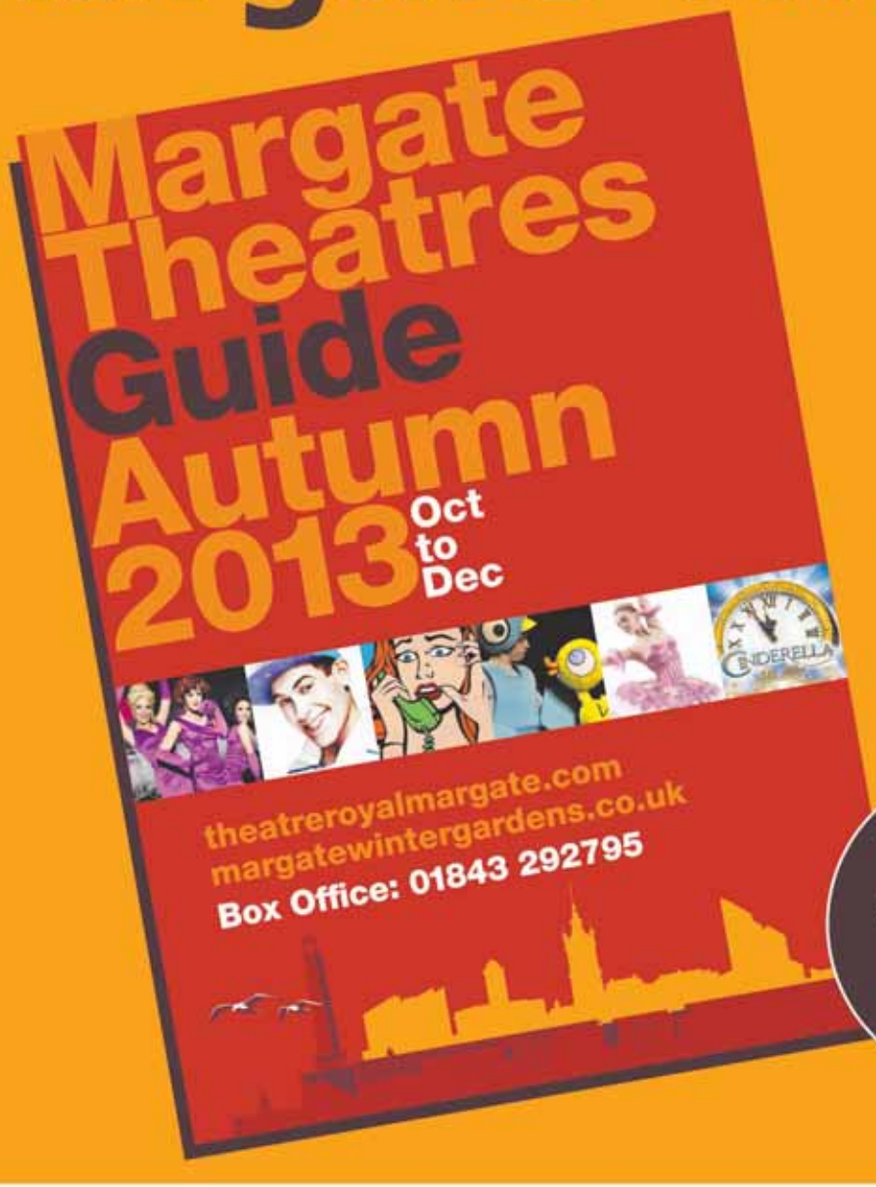

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CELEBRITY

Hepburn: Elham's best-kept secret

To many she was the 'strange little thing' from overseas but, as **Marijke Cox** discovered, this shy, solitary child would surprise villagers by becoming one of the most iconic movie stars of all time

SHE'S the Hollywood starlet who will forever remain one of the most iconic women of our time.

A beautiful, wide-eyed gamine, actress Audrey Hepburn was, and still is, celebrated as much for her style as she was her performances in films such as Breakfast at Tiffany's, Roman Holiday and My Fair Lady.

It was in the 1953 film Roman Holiday, alongside Gregory Peck, that she first shot to fame.

Hepburn had arrived, beginning her journey as one of the most stunning and recognisable faces of a generation.

But unknown to many, years before hitting the limelight, the Brussels-born beauty lived in the small village of Elham, near Canterbury.

Brought there by her mother, Baroness Ella van Heemstra, in 1937 as tensions in Europe escalated, the shy eight-year-old Hepburn – then Audrey Ruston – attended a small independent school run by the Rigden sisters.

She lived in Orchard Cottage just off the square in Duck Street. The house has since been renamed Five Bells.

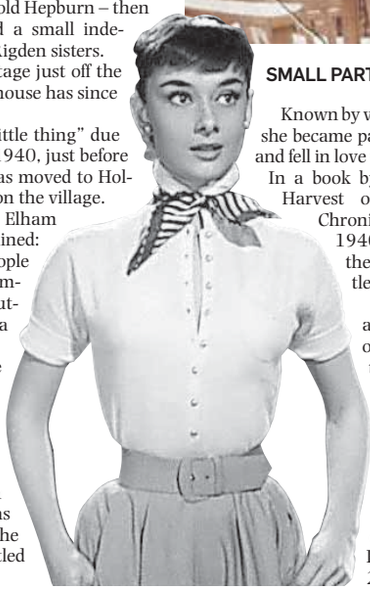
Described as "a strange little thing" due to her being so solitary, in 1940, just before the Battle of Britain, she was moved to Holland. But she left her mark on the village.

Andree Sladden, of the Elham Historical Society, explained: "One or two of the older people living in Elham, who remember her, say she wasn't an outgoing, fun sort and quite a solitary character.

"But she was only a little girl when she was moved here from Belgium and so it can't have been easy. Any young child would have been the same."

Accounts of her time in the village suggest she was teased for being shy, but she eventually adapted and settled into life there.

Picture: PEGGY PHILLIPS COLLECTION IN THE ELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES



SMALL PART: Audrey Hepburn (last on right) during her time spent in the village of Elham

Known by villagers as 'Little Audrey', she became part of the Brownies troop and fell in love with ballet.

In a book by Dennis Knight, called Harvest of Messerschmitts: The Chronicle of a Village at War – 1940, she was mentioned as the "strikingly attractive little girl with saucer eyes".

It wasn't until more than a decade later the villagers of Elham saw her again – this time on the silver screen. No longer Audrey Ruston, the young girl had grown into one of the most beautiful and soon-to-be famous women in the world.

Despite its Hepburn connection, Elham – Kent village of the year for 2011/12 – does not dine out on tales of the star. Instead, it is a little-known fact and few realise she even lived there.

For an actress who tried to keep her private life, away from the relentless glare of the world's media, it seems quite apt.

Hepburn died of cancer aged 63 in 1993.

BIG SCREEN PRESENCE

WHEN Audrey Hepburn burst onto the screen in Roman Holiday, she did so in some style, landing an Academy Award for best actress, a Bafta and a Golden Globe.

Such was its impact, she was signed to a seven-film contract with the Paramount studio. Her follow-up hit was another romantic comedy – Sabrina – which saw her nominated for another Oscar and scoop another Bafta.

She would go on to enjoy a string of international hits; perhaps most notably as Holly Golightly in the reimagining of Truman Capote's Breakfast at Tiffany's and alongside Rex Harrison in the big screen version of Broadway hit My Fair Lady.

Her role in that would stoke controversy with another star, Julie Andrews, who had played Eliza Doolittle on the stage and believed she deserved the part.

From the late 1960s Hepburn started taking a step back from the limelight to concentrate on her family, with only the occasional foray onto the big screen.

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Explains editor Chris Britcher: "We are all very excited by the new approach we are taking as we believe it will deliver even greater value to our readers and loyal advertisers.

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"Along with our website - www.kentnews.co.uk - we believe we offer the most fantastic value; especially as both the newspaper and access to our website is completely free to access."

And don't forget if your stockist runs out of next week's KoS, you can still read the entire newspaper, for free, by accessing our online e-editions at www.kentnews.co.uk.

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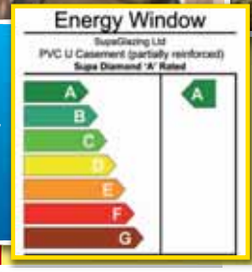

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EDUCATION

Experts called in as grammar school is branded inadequate

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A TEAM of education experts have been parachuted in to run Medway's Chatham Grammar School for Boys after the academy was placed in special measures by Ofsted.

This is despite the school seeing 95 per cent of its pupils gaining five or more A* to C grades including English and maths at GCSE this year.

Ofsted inspectors found a number of issues including inadequate leadership and management, quality of teaching not improving; students' achievement not consistently good; behaviour in classrooms declining; and weak and inadequate teaching.

School chiefs from the Rochester Grammar School Trust are now being drafted in to ensure standards improve.

Denise Shepherd, executive principal of the trust, has become interim executive principal of the Chatham school.

Stuart Gardner, the principal at Rochester Grammar School, one of the highest achieving in the country, becomes interim principal.

Rochester Grammar School is a National Support School and a National Teaching School which supports other secondary schools both in Medway and in other local authorities.

Mrs Shepherd said: "The inspectors challenged the rate of improvement at the school, not the improvements themselves. The new interim principal and I will be working with all leaders and teachers across the academy to bring about the necessary change.

"As part of that we will be regularly monitoring lessons and teacher involvement across the curriculum."

Mr Gardner added: "My colleagues from Rochester Grammar School will be providing help and support to the academy where it is needed. They have a national reputation for excellence in training and the support of staff."

Parents have been invited to contact the academy if they have questions and a number have had appointments with the new interim principal.

REVOLT

Petition calls for headmaster to quit

IT HAS long been regarded as one of the county's top schools; a blend of grammar education and boarding school which helps swell the local property market and regularly finds itself heavily oversubscribed.

But amid the splendour of Cranbrook School's classic buildings and grounds, a revolt is under way.

In a protest about the school's headmaster, an online petition has sprung up and already has more than 800 signatures – all calling for him to step down.

It claims John Weeds, 50, who took over as head at the beginning of last term, has taken the fun out of the school and is making it lose its "traditions and values".

Mr Weeds, meanwhile, denies there are problems and insists students should speak to him if they have a problem.

The school, a selective state day and boarding school for girls and boys from 13-18, picked up an 'outstanding' rating from Ofsted in 2011 and has a proud academic history.

But one anonymous student claims it is on a downward spiral under Mr Weeds.

At the ipetition.com website, the petition reads: "In the last year the school has undergone so much change and lost so many of its traditions and values, and this all reflects in the students, staff and parents."

It claims the annual sponsored walk has been shelved as it takes students out of classes for a day and that when a tray is now dropped in the canteen, any child spotted cheering can find themselves heavily punished.

The petition adds: "We are tired of seeing our Cranbrook, not his, go up in flames, while this character-less, manufactured exam-factory grows."

But the head hit back saying he is always open to advice from students, parents and teachers.

He said: "My door is always open for them to come to me and talk about their concerns."

On the lack of charitable events, Mr Weeds said he is "just as committed to doing good works for the community".

Mr Weeds said: "I respect their opinions."

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SAFETY

Children name and shame selfish drivers outside school

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SELFISH drivers caught parking inconsiderately outside a primary school in Gravesend have been named and shamed by pupils.

Dressed in hi-vis jackets and hats, the safety-conscious children – junior parking officers – have been patrolling the entrance of River View infant and junior schools armed with posters and parking tickets to deter reckless driving by parents.

It follows problems with drivers parking up on pavements and double parking, forcing children to walk in the road.

Offending drivers are named and shamed in a termly newsletter compiled by junior school pupils. The infant school children have posed for photographs showing a mock up crash – printed on banners outside the school.

Run in partnership with Kent County Council, the council is planning to use the project to help other schools tackle such parking problems.

Headteacher Rosemary Dymond said: "I've been truly inspired by how passionate the children are about road safety. The parking has improved, but with the start of term comes a fresh wave of parents who need educating – we're already busy training up our new recruits."

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KENT County Youth Orchestra celebrated its 50th anniversary in style last weekend with a gala concert at Maidstone's Mote Hall.

Former members, special guests and 160 singers enjoyed the evening, which also saw Classic FM and BBC Radio 3 presenter Tommy Pearson give a talk on the orchestra's history.

KCYO was founded by the Hungarian conductor Béla de Csilléry, and the orchestra performed its first concert at County Grammar School for Girls in Tunbridge Wells on August 16, 1963.

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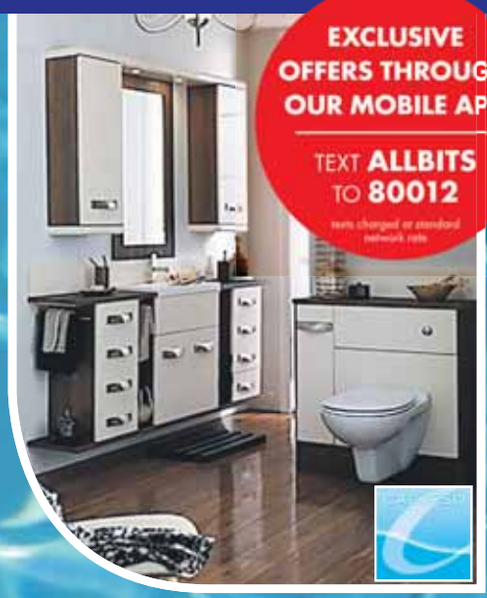

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REGENERATION

COASTAL VIEWS: The 60-bedroom hotel will be built close to Margate's Turner Contemporary

Plans unveiled for new 60-bed seafront hotel... now the search for investors begins

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans for a multi-million pound luxury hotel on Margate seafront have been unveiled.

It is hoped that if it comes to fruition, it will play a major part in the coastal town's renaissance.

Kent County Council chiefs unveiled the designs, produced by Guy Hollaway Architects, at the Turner Contemporary on Wednesday.

The architect is best known for its work on such projects as the Rocksalt Restaurant in Folkestone and the Bromley South Central regeneration scheme.

The search is now on to find a developer to take on the project at the Rendezvous site.

This planned addition to the town is expected to be built within two to three years provide the town with its first major hotel facility.

Guests at the unveiling were shown a model and CGI footage of the plans, which includes 60 bedrooms as well as 18 serviced apartments, described as 'retreats', as well as parking spaces.

The Rendezvous site, owned by KCC, is located on the seafront next to the harbour and Old Town – an area which has undergone a major transformation into a creative hotspot, fuelled by the neighbouring Turner art gallery.

KCC leader Paul Carter, who unveiled the plans, said: "There is a coastal renaissance going on in this county; stretching from Whitstable to Dungeness. We've been enormously privileged to get investment for transport links to the envy of other coastal counties.

"If we can start to develop and increase hotel capacity it will encourage more people to come and extend their stop and help grow the local tourism industry. Our commitment is to get the designs into the planners and to look towards encouraging investors to talk to us."

Plans are on display at the Thanet Gateway until October 10. A public exhibition will be held and designs then finalised, taking on board views and comments.

An outline planning application will then be submitted to the planning authority, scheduled for autumn 2013.

Bus lane's CCTV cover

COUNCIL chiefs in Tunbridge Wells are getting tough on motorists using a town centre bus lane from next month.

It is deploying a CCTV safety car to patrol the Fiveways bus lane. Those caught will be fined.

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HERITAGE

Pilot flies in as building work begins to create Battle of Britain centre

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the last surviving Battle of Britain pilots was on hand to help finally get work under way on a major memorial to remember the brave airmen who fought for our liberty during World War Two.

The Wing – so named as it will resemble the wingspan of the famous Spitfire planes it is modelled on – will be built at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, close to the existing National Memorial to The Few.

After years of planning and with fundraising progressing better than expected, former Battle of Britain pilot Bob Foster DFC AE swapped his Hurricane for a digger at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The 93-year-old Wing Commander, who flew over 40 sorties, helped contractors start the work.

Once completed, it will offer a high-tech audio-visual experience designed to bring to life the heroism and sacrifice of the men who took part in the famous battle and give a glimpse of what it was like in 1940 as the fighting raged overhead.

Wing Cdr Foster is the last surviving member of his squadron and is chairman of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association.

There are between 20 and 40 pilots still alive from the 2,927 involved in the battle.

The RAF lost around 1,000 aircraft – the Luftwaffe almost double that figure.

It prompted Winston Churchill's moving tribute: "Never in the field of human conflict, was so much owed by so many to so few."

From then on those brave pilots who overcame appalling odds became known as 'The Few'.

After using a large mechanical digger to break the grassy surface, Wing Cdr Foster admitted: "It was more frightening than flying a Spitfire, that's for sure."

Of the battle, he said: "We were in the frontline and ensured we, Great Britain, survived when Hitler conquered the rest of Europe.

"We, to quote someone else, were a little island off the coast of Europe that stood up and fought back against the Germans and stopped them from invading. That was one of the main turning points of the war."

Also present at the ceremony was Battle of Britain Memorial Trust chairman Richard Hunting CBE and secretary Patrick Tootal.

Nick Lawn, from Godden Allen Lawn, the Folkestone architectural practice that designed the building, said: "It will be an interactive experience which is geared to educating young people and future generations to let them know what it was like to be one of these pilots."

There is still an appeal for the final £1 million of the £3.5m total budget.

The official opening is set for July 2015, which also marks the 75th anniversary of the aerial conflict that saw the Luftwaffe defeated and Germany's plans for invasion overturned.

REMEMBERING THEM: The Wing will be situated at Capel-le-Ferne's National Memorial to The Few

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE TO RECOGNISE 'THE FEW'

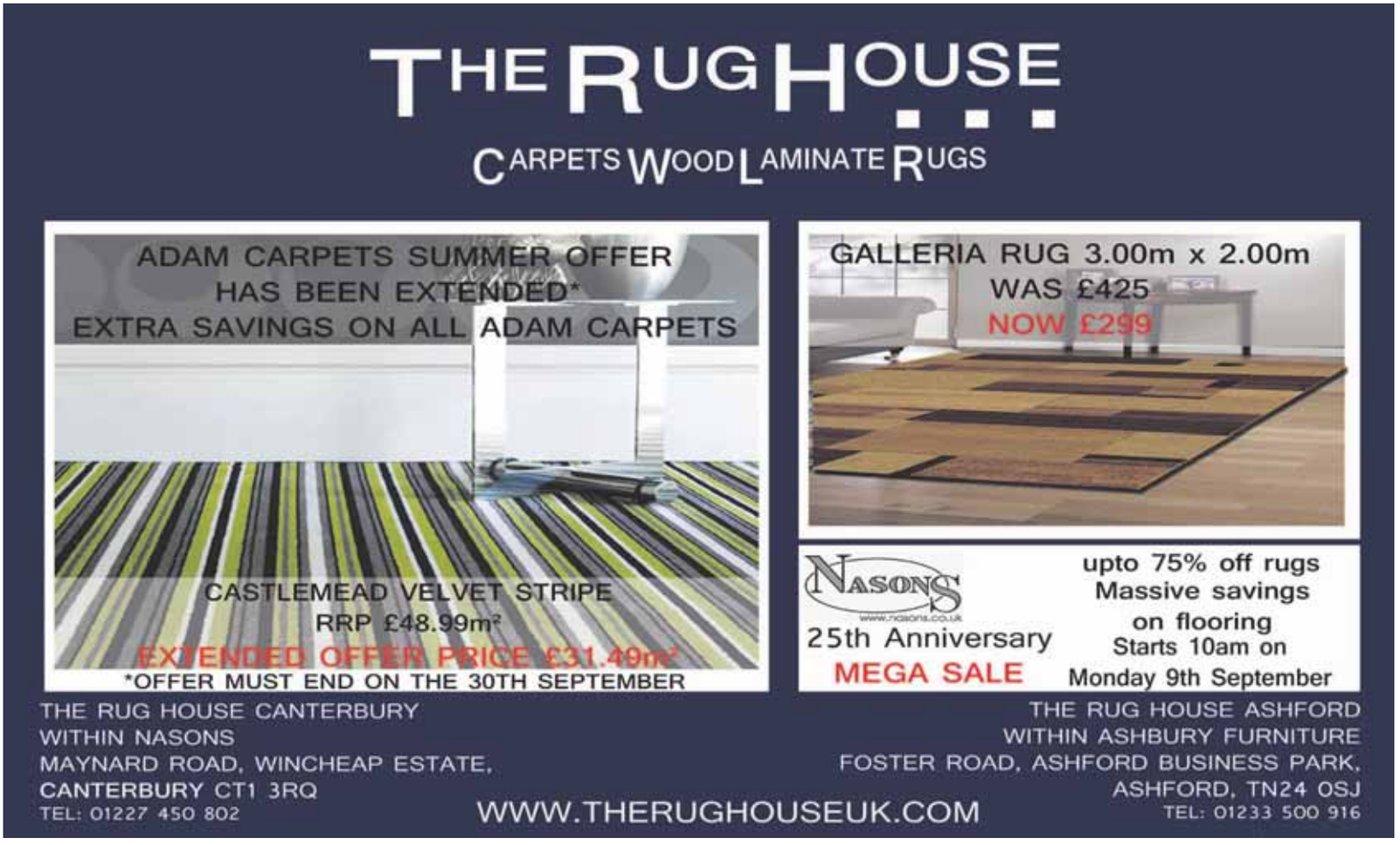
The Tunbridge Wells branch of the Royal Air Forces Association will be holding a wreath-laying ceremony at the Dowding Memorial in the Calverley Grounds this weekend.

To mark Battle of Britain Day, the ceremony will take place at 9.45am on Sunday.

It will be followed by the commemorative Battle of Britain service to be held in Christ Church starting at 10.30am.

It will be attended by the local mayors and town councillors together with ex-service associations and the Air Training Corps.

Those attending are asked to ensure they are seated by 10.20am.



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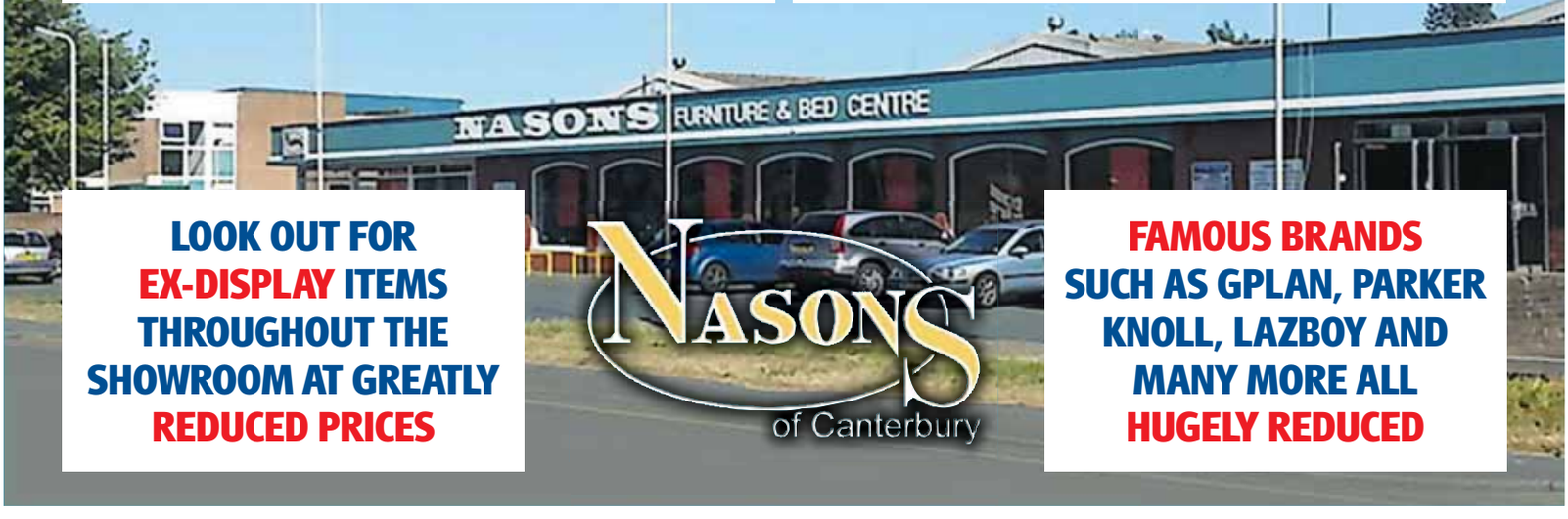

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HISTORY

Archaeologists all at sea after prehistoric replica boat finally makes maiden voyage

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN road workers first unearthed the remains of a prehistoric boat more than 20 years ago, few would imagine that one day it would once again take to the seas.

Or at least a replica based on it.

But last weekend, sea trials took place on a boat modelled on what is believed to be the world's oldest sea-going vessel.

And while the remains of the original stay on show at Dover Museum, for several brave souls the boat took to the seas, gliding alongside cruise ships and cross-Channel ferries.

The boat was first uncovered on September 28, 1992, when workers building the A20 link road between Folkestone and Dover realised they had stumbled upon something.

Teams from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust were called in and uncovered what remained of a large prehistoric boat – thought to be around 3,500 years old. That means it would have been on the waters surrounding Kent in or around 1,500 BC – the Middle Bronze Age.

Unable to recover all of the boat – leading to speculation as to its exact size and shape – after a month of painstaking excavation almost 10 metres of the boat was eventually excavated.

The replica boat was funded courtesy of a major public appeal for cash which raised close to £65,000

WAVE HELLO: Crew from archaeological trust sailed across Dover's harbour in the Bronze Age boat

Andrew Richardson, the outreach and archives manager at the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, said: "We knew the boat was a beautiful thing; carved from oak using bronze tools, just as the original boat would have been.

"But how would she perform out on the sea?

"An initial attempt to float it last year failed when the boat immediately started taking on water; there just hadn't been enough time to seal the joints and stitches. But we persevered, raising additional funds.

"Last weekend, the boat was lowered by a hoist into the marina at Dover. And this time she floated – in fact she did a lot more than just float.

"On both Saturday and Sunday we took her out of the marina, around the end of the Prince of Wales Pier and into the main harbour; a round trip of about two miles.

"Even on a good day the sea can get choppy around the end of the pier, near the western entrance to the harbour, and there was a fair bit of wind on both days.

"But the boat took it all in its stride. It was a fantastic and exhilarating weekend for all those involved. And we learnt many things, the most important of which was that our Bronze Age ancestors, 3,500 years ago, knew how to build a really good boat."

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RAIL

Trains to start earlier in bid to combat annual 'leaves on the line' travel chaos

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT HAS been a thorn in the side of train operators for years – but now the threat of falling leaves causing chaos on the rails has been countered by Southeastern unveiling its 'leaf timetable'.

Train bosses said autumn presents a "huge challenge" for rail operators with some routes being particularly vulnerable to poor rail conditions due to leaf fall.

Southeastern said leaves become compressed and slippery, creating a resin-like substance which is difficult to remove and makes the tracks greasy, much like black ice on a road.

With trains unable to get a grip on the rails, commuters find their services delayed in and out of work.

Starting morning services earlier helps minimise effects of any delays and gives train drivers time to adapt to conditions.

And as autumn breezes in, changes will begin on Sunday, September 29. Commuters are being urged to get familiar with the timetable to ensure they don't miss their service.

BE READY: Commuters are being urged to take note of the 'leaf' timetable as many services will be leaving at earlier times

Alison Nolan, customer relations manager for Southeastern, said: "We know how important it is for passengers to have certainty for their journey.

"During leaf fall season, rail conditions can affect our service and train drivers need to take extra precautions, such as braking and accelerating more slowly like you would in a car.

"We've done a great deal of work behind the scenes to prepare for the autumn period, and this timetable change, together with Network Rail's efforts, has been designed to help mitigate the rail conditions and minimise any disruption."

A spokesman for Network Rail, which has responsibility for the track and rail infrastructure, added: "Vegetation management helps to minimise the impact the falling leaves have on train services.

"We routinely cut back trees and plants to reduce the amount of leaves which can fall onto the tracks but as one of Britain's largest landowners, we also have a responsibility to protect the environment. Balancing the two is a challenge in itself.

"Throughout autumn, a fleet of specialist trains regularly clean the rails around Kent to remove fallen, compressed leaves and we continue to work with Southeastern to tackle the issue."

The autumn timetable will run from September 29 to December 7.

For more information see www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/leaffall.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Southeastern is calling on passengers to make their voice heard on what they want from their rail route ahead of the start of its extended franchise agreement.

The Government confirmed earlier this year it was reorganising franchise agreements following the fiasco of the West Coast line which became embroiled in legal battles.

As a consequence, existing franchises were extended - with Southeastern told it could keep operating services until 2018. Its existing deal concludes in October 2014.

As part of the Department for Transport's planning, Southeastern has to submit a proposal to ensure it meets demands for service, access, station quality, ticketing and other improvements.

Now Southeastern want to hear from customers about key issues including customer service, ticketing, car parking and managing disruption.

Submissions close on October 4, email communications@southeasternrailway.co.uk or alternatively post your comments to: Southeastern Direct Awards Consultation, PO Box 63428, London SE1P 5FD.

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TRAVEL

Ambitious proposals to move train station are approved by planners

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ROCHESTER railway station has been given the green light to be moved as part of a £26 million investment programme.

The station will be shifted to what is currently the Corporation Street car park, after Medway Council planners gave the scheme the thumbs-up.

It is hoped by moving it closer to the town centre it will both boost trade to the high street and attract more tourists,

It all forms part of rail operator Network Rail's investment programme, designed to improve high-speed rail services, increase capacity and upgrade rail infrastructure.

As well as the new station at Rochester, and improvements already made at Gillingham, there will be improvements to Rainham and Strood stations – a total investment in Medway of £40m.

The new station has been designed to meet demand as the number of rail passengers travelling from Rochester is expected to increase by 30 per cent in the future.

It will have larger platforms and concourses than the current station to cater for 12 car trains, rather than the 10 being used now.

The new station will occupy the southern end of the Corporation Street car park. As part of the redevelopment scheme a new council-owned car park will be built on the Rochester Riverside development site, to replace any parking lost and to serve the new station as well as residents.

A new pedestrian subway, which will be lit and have CCTV cameras, will link the station to the new car park and Rochester Riverside site.

In addition, there will be new bus stops, taxi bays and cycling parking areas to accompany the station.

Medway Council leader, Rodney Chambers, said: "The fact this scheme has got the go ahead is very good news.

"It will lead to a new, better train station for Rochester, which will result in a quicker, more reliable service with more space for passengers.

"The number of rail passengers is forecast to grow significantly and freeing up this space for a new station will not only improve the service for commuters and other passengers, but also make sure it grows with future demand."

WATERS DEVELOPMENT TO GO AHEAD

The first phase of the ambitious Chatham Waters development was also given the nod by planners this week.

During a meeting on Wednesday night, detailed planning approval was given for the scheme at Chatham docks, in Gillingham.

The overall scheme will transform 26 acres with a conference centre, hotel, superstore, apartments and town houses.

The first phase will see the superstore built in a generous central park setting. A pub restaurant and café buildings have been removed to overcome previous design concerns.

Rodney Chambers, the leader of Medway Council, said: "This is a key development for Medway and marks the beginning of a new era for the docklands at Gillingham, which promises to bring thousands of jobs and economic prosperity to the area."

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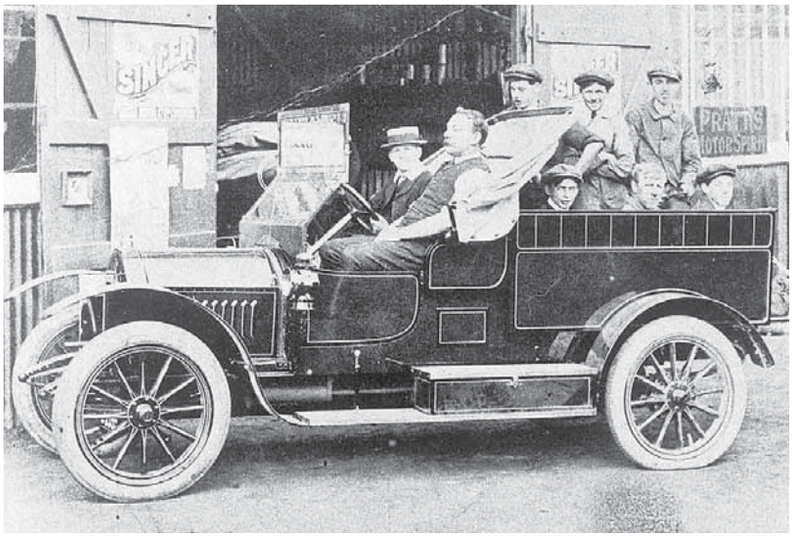

Travelling through time as motor cars and the Doctor collide in village

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR many, Hawkhurst's position at the very heart of the Weald has been one from which they take great pride.

The pretty little village has expanded over the years and as it sits on the border of Kent and East Sussex, it would be easy to overlook.

Yet delve into its recent past and you find it at the heart of both the boom in the motor car and with some unexpected links to one of TV's best loved time-travellers, none other than Dr Who.

And now a book has been produced which allows visitors to explore the village on foot and discover its remarakble past.

John Dawes is a volunteer with the Hawkhurst Community Partnership and a keen local historian.

He hopes his A Walk in the Past guide will reveal some forgotten roots.

"One of the most influential impacts on Hawkhurst was the Rootes empire, which was launched when William Rootes added motor cars to his repertoire of bicycles and repairs on the Cranbrook Road.

"In the 1900s the bicycle was king but was about to be usurped by the horseless carriage. When the autocar challenged the carriage and the bike, Oliver & Co, which constructed carriages, instructed their coachmen to test drive their pony and traps to the lower end of Winchester Road

TALES TO TELL: From the top: Rootes employees load test a car; Golden landing in Dr Who

'making sure you turn round in front of Rootes Motors across the Cranbrook Road'.

"The Rootes family helped pave the way for modern transport systems countrywide; Oliver & Co soon got the message and took up a Ford motorcar dealership.

"That first Rootes car, cycle and repair outlet on the Cranbrook Road blossomed after World War One, turning the original shop parade into a sales and service centre with a busy engineering concern just round the corner.

"The bold development was followed by an art deco purpose-built factory showroom in Maidstone, and later a large scale mass production works complex in Coventry."

The author insists the best way to explore Hawkhurst and unearth its history is on foot.

He explains: "The Victorian world is still recognisable when walking slowly and looking carefully about the village, rather than driving furiously through."

The Rootes empire continued to grow and after William was joined by his brother Reginald the firm expanded, embracing modern manufacturing and marketing techniques.

William Rootes would go on to rebuild and service planes during World War Two, as well as buildling thousands of war planes in huge factories in the north.

Adds Mr Dawes: "The cottages in Western Road, purpose-built for Rootes' service mechanic families, provided close-by facilities for workers to cater for customers."

But while there's a strong motor car link, it also provided a pull for one particular Time Lord.

William Hartnell, who portrayed the very first Doctor, was a regular visitor, while perhaps the best loved of them all – Tom Baker – lives locally.

No stranger to Kent, Mr Baker is a regular sight across west Kent and is regularly spotted out and about in nearby Tunbridge Wells.

And fans can find plenty of other links to the Doctor nearby too.

The episode the Curse of the Fenric, with Sylvester McCoy, shot scenes at the local St Lawrence church and nearby Lillesden School for Girls – now abandoned.

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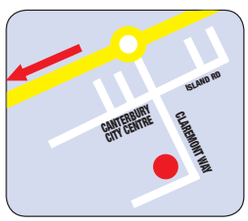

OPINION

A positive change to social care

Martin Whybrow reflects on the significant changes under way to shake up provision of the county's learning disabilities services

THE experiences of disability services change in Shepway, one of the first areas to be impacted, have been positive and should provide reassurance ahead of similar roll-outs elsewhere in Kent.

Particularly in the current economic climate, the use of the word 'closure' will often cause dread. This is likely to be the case at present in most of the county, as KCC's learning disabilities strategy is gradually rolled out, with large centres being replaced by smaller hubs.

However, from what I have seen in one of the first areas to undergo the changes, such fears are unfounded.

Dubbed the Good Day Programme, KCC has, as usual, tried to paint its proposals through its own strange use of the English language. "Making 'Valuing People Now' happen in Kent" is one of my favourites. And no doubt some will see it as another cost-cutting ploy.

However, this strategy seems well thought-out and to have the needs of the users at heart.

The best way to tell, of course, is to talk to those users.

For everyone, but particularly people with learning difficulties, change can be worrying and fraught, not least as some may have been using the same centre for 20 years, five days a week. However, having toured the new community hubs in Hythe and Folkestone, part of the replacement programme for the previous central Shepway Resource Centre, the staff and, most importantly, users appear to be extremely positive about the changes.

Previously, as in most of the county, the focus was on one large centre and users had to travel from across the district; a lengthy commute for some.

Once there, they were isolated from the community, with the Shepway Resource Centre being out of the way near the army camp and waste recycling facility in Shorncliffe.

The smaller, specialised hubs, including Bridge Centre in Hythe and the one at Folkestone Sports Centre, allow more individual attention for the users.

Already (Shepway Resource Centre only closed in June), there is greater ability to provide services for those with more severe learning difficulties. The smaller, 'lighter' hubs are also proving more appealing to younger people.

Users can move around the hubs on different days, which brings variety. It is also easier for them to attend shorter sessions if they wish.

It is much easier to go into the community. One user I met now does work experience near the Hythe centre at the library, while two more are in the Folkestone Sports Centre café.

This strategy seems well thought-out and to have the needs of users at heart

This is good for the individuals and it helps break down barriers in the community. Another individual now goes to the shop for a newspaper, a small but important change and impossible in the previous centre.

The investment in the hubs is also impressive, creating well-equipped, pleasant and safe environments.

Not everything will be perfect, I am sure there is room for improvement, and there is always the worry of the impact of budget constraints. However, the Shepway experiences will hopefully be reassuring for those in the rest of the county that face similar changes.

I have no doubt the staff did a wonderful job under the old system, but the Good Day Programme looks to be a huge leap forward in the way learning disabilities residents are served.

■ **Martin Whybrow is Green Party KCC member for Hythe.**

KOS COMMENT

Threat to the new wave of power generation

TWENTY years ago the clamour from communities was to find alternatives to existing fuels and usher in the next generation of cleaner, cheaper power derived by harnessing the power of the sun, sea and wind.

But today, when society and now even governments, have embraced such forward thinking, there is a growing sense of concern being voiced at grassroots level.

Fields of solar panels are just the latest issue to spark a nimby-inspired call to arms.

The big question is that if we want a more environmentally friendly power source, are we prepared to pay the environmental cost? The answer is one we all need to consider very carefully.

Leaf fall train changes

ANYONE who has commuted on the trains will be aware of the frustration of leaves on the line.

Now Southeastern has come up with a plan to combat it and it seems to revolve around trains starting earlier – which suggests those delays are now simply being timetabled.

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French coast seen from Folkestone by Mike Waterman

Images of Kent

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Price of life's little luxuries

I HAVE to agree with B Spackman [KoS Letters, last week]... there is something very wrong in our society.

I remember windows freezing on the inside, cardboard put in shoes to cover the holes in soles, Mum paying weekly on the Provident to buy basic items, buying two pints of petrol for my old scooter, etc.

Yet now, when people can afford new cars, holidays abroad, flat screen TVs and other such luxuries, we can't afford proper health care, to look after our eldery, provide the council services we used to have, or afford to do so many of the other things our society once thought were essential.

We as a nation generated an under class.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Papers' lead role in reunion

THANKS to local newspapers round the country printing my recent letters about HMS Collingwood, many readers who have served there have been in contact – some now well into their 80s.

A superb reunion weekend has been arranged for next April and is already taking bookings.

This is for those who served at HMS Collingwood, including wives, husbands or partners.

This will take place in the Chatham area to coincide with the 70th birthday of HMS Cavalier which will be open to the public.

The reunion includes entry to Chatham Historic Dockyard and its exhibitions.

An added bonus and a delight is to hear from the sons and daughters with tales and photos.

And to answer a common question, yes we would like those photos or good copies for our archives and for the nostalgic displays at the reunion.

For details of the HMS Collingwood Association, and the reunion, contact Peter Lacey, Heathfield, Lapford, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6PZ or email him placey58@btinternet.com and please mention this newspaper.

Mike Crowe, Isle of Wight.

Crossing to pile up again?

WHILE the Sheppey Crossing crash was undeniably an appalling and tragic event, it does highlight a growing menace on our roads: namely people assuming they can travel as fast as they like in any condition.

We have all driven carefully in foggy conditions only for some idiot to overtake or glue themselves to our fender.

It would seem that sort of inconsiderate driver was to blame here.

Roads and bridges in this day and age are all safe, but you cannot legislate for people who simply don't understand that taking a risk in poor conditions puts others in danger.

And it is not helped by those who often write in to local newspapers always demanding speed limits be scrapped and speed cameras be ditched.

It just encouages an environment where the danger of speed is extracted.

All of which means another Sheppey Crossing pile-up is surely just around the corner.

H Jacobs, Tunbridge Wells

Lighting will add to danger

FOLLOWING your story on the Sheppey Crossing crash last week.

There are more than enough street lights from Cowstead Corner to Queenborough – it puts Blackpool to shame.

I'm sure their reflection must light up the bridge.

Lights on the bridge will just make drivers go faster.

S Aitken, Sheppey

Keeping firm grip is vital

YOUR readers may be aware of EU proposals to introduce a high-tech device into cars to prevent them breaking the speed limit.

The Intelligent Speed Adaption technology is able to detect the road speed limit and apply a car's brakes automatically if the limit is exceeded.

Ostensibly, the European Commission's mobility and transport department justifies the proposals as a safety measure to reduce the number of road safety incidents each year.

However, this policy shows a disgraceful disregard for British motorists' freedoms.

Britain has the best road safety records in Europe and we won't allow it to be compromised by such interference.

In fact, it would be dangerous to deny motorists ultimate control of their vehicles.

So not only would this suggestion be costly, it would also be counter-productive so far as road safety is concerned.

Motoring organisations all agree that it is far better to leave car and van drivers in complete control so they can respond to circumstances on the road.

The commission claims this is not yet a legislative proposal.

If, or when, the commission presents this to the European Parliament, rest assured that Conservative MEPs will not accept this.

I would be very interested to receive your views at richard.ashworth@europarl.europa.eu

Richard Ashworth, MEP for the South East of England

Being up close too personal

I WAS driving on the A252 earlier this month when my passengers and I were horrified to see a car in front of us tailgating a small car with a newly qualified driver (he had a P-plate in his rear window) behind the wheel.

This went on for a couple of miles, until the poor man had the courage to indicate he was pulling over at the first opportunity and the tailgater sped off.

This was blatant bullying. The new driver must have been terrified and I congratulate him on his courage.

I have also been the subject of similar tailgate tactics and it is appears to be a new trait which should be highlighted.

I Kember, Dover

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HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

NATASHA is a naughty 22yr old lady seeking no strings discreet fun with older man. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366033**

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why.**Tel: No. 0905 002 1957 Box 407321**

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

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LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

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SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

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ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355**

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317**

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277**

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147**

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

CANTERBURY white mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build black/white/Asian/oriental female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

TALL friendly, light hearted, single, 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR with mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405557**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

CANTERBURY sign language interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

MEDWAY male, 60's, solvent, seeks attractive lady, 55-65, GSOH to wine, dine and share the good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405429**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, fun loving, happy go lucky, honest, seeks special lady for fun and to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406333**

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321**

DEREK Croydon area, 52, self employed, seeks female for 1-2-1 relationship, likes meals out, places of interest, holidays. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406559**

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTM N/S female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

Gay Seeking

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MATURE bi guy, assertive, seeking passive, mature guy for daytime fun. Kent/Surrey/SE London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407659**

RON 60, overweight, passive, seeking active guy for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407437**

TV/BI CD, seeks feminine male with similar interests for discreet daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406735**

PETER looking for male, 30-60 for casual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406049**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male of similar age for occasional meetings and mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405863**

BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

BI male, senior, clean shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 40, Medway, seeks sports buddies into table tennis, golf, snooker and pool. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405417**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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By **GREG MILES**

THE BAND: Alexander Armstrong is on tour with wind player Simon Bates, Van Morrison's drummer Jeff Lardner, Harry the Piano and Jools Holland's bassist Dave Swift

Comedian is serious about singing for us

Alexander Armstrong reveals his tuneful side ahead of tour

ALEXANDER Armstrong is better known as a comedian and presenter, and in these parts as the face of a certain beer company, but his love of music is the reason for a date in the county later this month.

As one half of the comedy duo Armstrong and Miller, he has become a recognisable face on our screens, where he has most recently been occupied as the presenter of gameshow Pointless. But this autumn he is taking on another persona – as a baritone singer in a band.

It might not be what he is best known for, but it is where it all began for the 43-year-old, who is performing at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells this month.

'I've sung at weddings – every summer I get a few bookings for family and friends'

"Music has been there all the time, I've never really stopped it," he said. "I sang semi-profesionally in university. The only meaningful training I had was as a classsical baritone. It's a part of my life I've kept up, but not very publicy.

"I've sung at weddings – every summer I get a few bookings for family and friends."

The occassional Have I Got News For You host turned his hand to comedy and acting after moving to London following his graduation in 1992, a decision that eventually saw him unite with Ben Miller. That all but stopped his musical ambitions as their sketchshow and subsequent careers took off.

However, the man who, with Miller, is the public face of Shepherd Neame's Spitfire Ale, revealed that he did give serious thought to life as a singer.

"I was a chorister and a musical scholar at school. It's kind of man and boy – I've been drilled into it," he said.

"I thought very hard about going on to music college and taking it up as a serious career. But the thing is I didn't have the heart for it. We went to The Proms recently and there was a singer called Ruby Hughes and I was looking at the amazing things she's done, and what you're struck by is how far-flung it all is. Stuttgart one day and Tokyo the next. You travel everywhere. Your time is full of trains and planes.

"There might have been a time in my life when that appealed – I would only want to do that for so long.

"Your life is really not your own. I think in a way if you grew up in it, like in the circus where your life is on the road and you travel, you get to recognise the dressing rooms of the world's opera houses as your home."

Armstrong's appreciation of music may not have been instant, but he is grateful for his parents' decision not to get babysitters.

"We listened to music a lot at home. I learnt about music very early on," he said. "Because I grew up in Northumberland the Northern Sinfonia was our music. My parents wanted to go to concerts and maybe didn't want to pay for a babysitter, so they took us along.

"It was initially a testing couple of hours sighing and drumming your fingers, but we eventually learnt to love it. I had a good ear for music and a knack for it when I went to school."

The style of music on offer from his band is an eclectic one, with everything from Louis Jordan's Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby to Spandau Ballet's True and Cyndi Lauper's Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.

It is a perfect reflection of Rothbury-born Armstrong's own tastes.

"If anyone looked through my iPod, they wouldn't get much of an idea," he said. "I have a lot of contempoaray music, but a lot of classical. Unsurprisingly, a lot of choral music as well.

"I've been introducing our children to The Wombles – if I'm honest I love them more than they do. I simply can't do only Justin Bieber, although my children wish we'd listen to it more, but I can stomach One Direction."

'I've been introducing our children to The Wombles – I love them more than they do'

The band features Harry the Piano, wind player Simon Bates, Van Morrison's drummer Jeff Lardner and Jools Holland's bassist Dave Swift. It came about when Armstrong started collaborating with his pianist.

"We started up working on some songs that we really liked, then we put a band together," he said. "Someone asked us if we wanted to do a little residency at The Hippodrome in London.

"They wanted more unexpected people doing week-long residences, which I did in February. We did it for fun and thought it would be a nice thing to do. The tour has arisen out of that. We also got asked to do various festivals.

"I thought 'I've got a free slot and let's get out there and do some singing'. For me it doesn't feel like any departure at all, but I'm not well known for these things."

■ **Alexander Armstrong and band are at the Assembly Hall Theatre on Thursday, September 26. Tickets, priced at £22.50, can be booked by phoning 01892 530613.**

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Coup for the Beaney as it is selected for masterpiece's first stop on tour

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE Beaney House of Art and Knowledge in Canterbury has been selected as the first gallery to host Edouard Manet's The Execution Of Maximilian as part of its nationwide tour.

The painting, which depicts the capture and execution of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian and his two majors by Mexican revolutionaries in 1867, is travelling the country as part of the National Gallery's Masterpiece Tour to promote understanding, knowledge and appreciatation of old master paintings.

The Beaney will in January next year be the first stop on that journey and the painting will stay there until March.

The painting, an oil on canvas, is one of five on the subject of the execution of Maximilian.

He was installed in power in Mexico by Napoleon III of France in 1863 but was executed on June 19, 1867, when he was captured by the forces of the man he had overthrown from power, Benito Juarez.

Because of their political content they were not put on public display in France and remained largely unknown until the 20th century.

The Execution Of Maximilian has been cut into pieces, four of them having been gathered over the years and put together to comprise the piece being taken on tour. The other pieces remain missing. It is thought the left side was cut off by Manet himself, while other parts were cut off and sold separately after his death in 1883.

Picture: NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON

A MASTERSTROKE: Manet's The Execution Of Maximillian is on show in Canterbury until March

The exhibition will present Manet's masterpiece alongside John Opie's Murder Of Thomas Becket In Canterbury Cathedral, painted in about 1793 and a highlight of the Beaney's collections.

The exhibition will be accompanied by events being developed in partnership with both the University of Kent and the local community.

The hosting of The Execution Of Maximilian is a huge feather in the cap for the Beaney, which, since opening last September after a £14 million makeover, has seen more than 500,000 visitors.

The venue has also recently won a Sanford Award for Heritage Education and was shortlisted for the Clore Education Award.

Janice McGuinness, head of culture and enterprise at Canterbury City Council, said: "Being chosen to host this wonderful Manet offers a perfect opportunity for the museums service to create an innovative and exciting learning programme for all ages around the exhibition, supporting the National Gallery's desire to bring enjoyment of old masters to a much broader audience."

The enthusiasm was echoed by Joanna Jones, director of Canterbury museums and galleries, who said: "The Beaney is a very fitting venue, given its new role as a regional cultural hub, its wide-ranging audience and the nature of its permanent collections.

"We will be working in partnership with the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University to enable our audiences to develop and deepen their understanding, knowledge and appreciation of Manet's painting and related works, including images of Thomas Becket's murder in Canterbury Cathedral."

The National Gallery tour has been made possible with the support of auctioneer Christie's.

The exhibition in Canterbury will be on view from January 17 until March 16, 2014. For more information, visit www.canterbury.co.uk/Beaney.

Quay artists ready for a series of live shows

A TRIO of iconic performers has been lined up for Whitlive's autumn series in Whitstable.

Squeeze frontman Glenn Tilbrook (above left), singer Hazel O'Connor (right) and prog-rock legends Caravan are set for The Easy Quay in the harbour in November.

Tilbrook, who with writing partner Chris Difford penned Squeeze's numerous hits, including Up The Junction, Cool For Cats and Tempted, will be playing on Friday, November 8.

O'Connor is embarking on her Breaking Glass Live/Greatest Hits tour, in which she will be performing songs from the cult film Breaking Glass and subsequent chart singles, including Eighth Day, D-Days and Will You. She will be at the East Quay on Saturday, November 9.

Canterbury's Caravan achieved cult status and a loyal international following after breaking through in the 1960s with their jazz-riddled psychedelic rock. The band will take to the stage on Saturday, November 23.

All tickets are priced at £17.50 and available at www.whitlive.co.uk or in person at Gatefield Sounds in Whitstable and Herne Bay and at Canterbury Rock in Canterbury.

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Let's do vintage at fair

RETRO fanatics are in for a treat in Sandwich, with the first-ever Let's Do Vintage fair taking place in the town.

There will be a range of treasures on show, with vintage clothes, accessories, bags, jewellery, kitchen and household goods, guitars, records and much more.

You can enjoy the music of Emma Jane while browsing the stalls.

The event takes place at St Mary's Arts Centre in Strand Street on Sunday, September 22, from 11am-4pm. Entry is £1 for adults and free for children. Free parking is available at Gazen Salts or the guildhall.

More from your garden

A WORKSHOP explaining how to get the best out of your garden is taking place at Godinton House later this month.

The Productive Garden Workshop at the venue near Ashford will be led by Godinton House head gardener Viv Hunt and Hadlow College lecturer Fiona Abrahams on Saturday, September 28.

The pair will explain how to get the most from fresh vegetables and how to care for flowers in your garden. Places are limited.

For more information, phone 01233 643854. The workshop starts at 9.30am.

Stage academy spreading its wings... and so can you

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A THEATRE school is branching out with new classes in Sevenoaks this month.

The JPA Academy, run by tutors with West End backgrounds in musical theatre, will be holding lessons in acting, singing and dancing.

The academy launched just two years ago in Tunbridge Wells and has proved a hit with youngsters aged five to 17, many of its pupils going on to enjoy success on stage and screen.

It works in partnership with model and talent agency Happy Feet Models, which ensures that every student is invited to join the agency and have professional representation and the chance to attend auditions.

The academy is owned and run by husband-and-wife team Howard and Vanessa Jones.

"We were thrilled at the positive reception we got from the hugely talented young people of Tunbridge Wells and are looking forward to discovering what Sevenoaks has to offer," said Vanessa. "Although it's wonderful to see them succeed professionally, the biggest rewards come when you see a student's confidence grow. Not everyone wants a career on stage – for some it's more about personal growth and having fun. These students are just as much stars."

An academy highlight was its royal performance for the Earl and Countess of Wessex when they visited Tunbridge Wells before The Queen's jubilee.

Classes run alongside school terms and include summer and Christmas shows, with all ticket sales going to children's hospice charity ChYps.

Rachel Holweger, director of fund-raising at ChYps, said: "There's a touching synergy in having young people help raise funds for ChYps. Hopefully our work will resonate with the students and their parents and friends, raising money and awareness."

The first session at St Luke's Hall in Eardley Road, Sevenoaks, is free. It takes place on Thursday, September 19. Anyone interested in attending can phone 07870 460687 or email info@thejpaacademy.co.uk for details.

The classes will take place on Thursday evenings from 4.15pm until 7.15pm.

Visit www.thejpaacademy.co.uk for further information.

FAB FOUR

The Kings Hall, Herne Bay
Thursday, September 19
Phone: 01227 787787
Website: www.canterburyticketshop.com
Letz Zep: A tribute to rock legends Led Zeppelin, Letz Zep arrive in Herne Bay as part of a world tour that has taken in 24 countries. The show starts at 8pm. Tickets £15.

Dover Museum
Saturday, September 21
Phone: 01304 201066
Website: www.dovermuseum.co.uk
Family Day: Enjoy a day out with the family at Dover Museum, with activities including the chance to decorate a Roman style face pot. Open 10am-4pm. Entry is free.

Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone
Friday, September 20
Phone: 01622 758611
Website: www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk
Soldiers' Wives: A drama about five women running their households and keeping it together while their husbands are on duty in Afghanistan. Starts at 8pm. Tickets £12, concessions £10.

The Brook Theatre, Chatham
Friday, September 27, 8pm
Phone: 01634 338338
Webste: www.medayticketslive.co.uk
Andy Parsons: The Spitting Image-writer-turned-stand-up is embarking on his fourth nationwide tour with his new show I've Got A Shed. Tickets £15.

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Tribute to the revolution

THE world's No 1 T. Rex tribute band are heading to Dartford later this month.

Forty-one years on from the band's greatest hit, Children Of The Revolution, Marc Bolan's music is still going strong through T*Rextasy, fronted by uncanny doppleganger Danielz.

The group are the only band to have been endorsed by Bolan's Catalogue Management and are officially recognised as the world's No 1 group dedicated to T. Rex.

They have been performing the likes of Metal Guru and Telegram Sam around the world for 20 years.

T*Rextasy will be at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Friday, September 20, at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £23 and £19 and available by phoning 01322 220000.

Lawson ladies get the St Peters musical season into the groove

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE Lawson Trio are opening the Music At St Peters season in Canterbury this month.

The ladies, who recently played London's Southbank Centre in a production recorded by BBC Radio 3, will perform works by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Schostakovich at St Peter's Methodist Church in the high street on Saturday, September 21.

The St Peters season runs from September to May and features nine concerts. A ticket covering them all costs £60 and is available by phoning Jenny Devenish on 01227 456359. You can get tickets for single concerts from Poppins restaurant.

Two of the St Peters concerts form part of the Canterbury Festival.

On Wednesday, October 23, the Sacconi Quartet will present music by Haydn, Britten and Beethoven. Over the past decade the quartet have performed throughout Europe. They are Quartet In Association at the Royal College Of Music and Quartet In Residence at the Bristol Old Vic.

Then, on Wednesday, October 30, Nicholas Daniel, one of the country's most distinguished oboeists, will be performing with pianist Julius Drake, a specialist in chamber music.

Tickets for Canterbury Festival concerts are available through The Marlowe box office. St Peters brochures are available from the church or the visitor information office at the Beaney. You can also phone Jenny Devenish on 01277 456359.

FAB FOUR

Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday, October 4, 8pm
Phone: 01892 678678
Website: www.trinitytheatre.net
Stephen K Amos: Fresh from the Edinburgh Festival, the comedian, who has appeared on Live At The Apollo, is hitting the road with a new show, The Spokesman. Tickets £16.

The Winter Gardens, Margate
Sunday, September 22, 3pm
Phone: 01304 210600
Website: www.margatewintergardens.co.uk
The Royal Marines Association Concert Band: Enjoy an afternoon of music from former Royal Marines who have formed their own band because of demand. Tickets from £12.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Wednesday, October 2, 7.30pm
Phone: 01303 228600
Website: www.atgtickets.com
The ELO Experience: Relive the hits from 70s Birmingham legends ELO, including Mr Blue Sky and Telephone Line, in a two-hour show. Tickets from £23.90.

Historic Dockyard Chatham
Sat and Sun, Sep 21-22, 10am-6pm
Phone: 01634 823815
Website: www.thedockyard.co.uk
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Snake the Sax Man strikes out for Ship

SNAKE Davis, the Sax Man, is bringing his brand of soul and funk to Sevenoaks next month.

The saxophone-player is known widely for his solos on tracks such as Lisa Stansfield's Change, M-People's Search For A Hero and Moving On Up and Take That's A Million Love Songs.

He has also played and recorded with artists ranging from James Brown and Paul McCartney to The Eurythmics and Amy Winehouse.

He is at The Ship Theatre, Hollybush Lane, with his own band on Sunday, October 6, at 8pm.

Tickets are priced at £15. Phone the box office on 01732 740889 or visit www.listeningroom.co.uk to book.

One brilliant band, punk or not

REVIEW MUSIC

The Stranglers
The Old Testament – The UA Studio Recordings 1977-1982

IT was a few years back at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall that it fully hit home, to me anyway, quite what hit-monsters The Stranglers were.

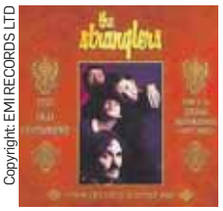
The gig consisted, or so it seemed, entirely of singles that still bring the airwaves to life on the odd occasion they're played on the radio and that bridged the gap between pop (sorry!) and punk.

Something Better Change, No More Heroes, Nice 'n' Sleazy, (Get A) Grip (On Yourself), Peaches, Golden Brown... on and on they went. And brilliant it was, too.

And here they all are again on this five-CD set that pulls together the band's first six albums (Rattus Norvegicus, No More Heroes, Black And White, The Raven, The Gospel According To The Meninblack and La Folie), bonus singles and b-sides recorded during their time with United Artists.

The Old Testament (I don't go much on the title, to be honest) is a re-release from 1992 but with the addition of a 15-track 'rarities' disc that includes radio edits, 12-inch versions, live renditions and remixes... you know the kind of thing. Ones for the fans maybe, but a couple of the live songs, in particular, are worth having in the private hoard.

Whether they were real punk or not (some critics said their age precluded them from the youthful rage of the age, while their audacity in having the distinctive keyboards of Dave Greenfield feature so strongly just added grist to the anti mill), this collection includes some of the best, most enjoyable songs of the era. End.



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And when you consider that almost all the 'real' punks sold out anyway, does it really matter how we choose to pigeonhole The Stranglers?

The music on this box set captures the band at their best – although there are some dogs – as Hugh Cornwell (guitar and vocals), Jean-Jacques Burnel (bass and vocals), Jet Black (drums) and Greenfield display a level of musicianship that was perhaps the real reason many Brit punks elected not to warm to them (in public, anyway).

There are 98 tracks here, including some doubles on the rarities disc, together with a chunky booklet telling you an awful lot about The Stranglers. Like the band, you'll love this box set.

Dave Mairs

Buddy and friends pick The Orchard

THE UK's No 1 Buddy Holly show is teaming up with Good Rockin' Tonight at The Orchard Theatre later this month.

Marc Robinson, as Buddy Holly, and his band will be performing at the Dartford venue with Gravesend group and concert show Good Rockin' Tonight.

Fronted by Mark Keeley, Good Rockin' Tonight have recorded and released 17 CDs, appeared on both BBC1 and ITV1, performed with Bill Haley's Comets, Buddy Holly's Crickets, Marti Wilde and The Drifters and regularly tour Spain, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands and Israel.

Show producer Michael Taylor said: "Prepare for an authentic slice of rock'n'roll nostalgia that ensures Buddy's incredible legacy of unforgettable hit songs lives on."

The all-star cast has appeared in Royal Variety Performances, includes winners from TV's Stars In Their Eyes and is regularly seen on national television.

Buddy Holly – A Legend Reborn, with special guests Good Rockin' Tonight, is at The Orchard Theatre on Thursday, September 26, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced at £23.50 or £22.50. Phone 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk to book.

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Don't follow the brightest lights for a touch of class

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

CANTERBURY is not short of a restaurant or two. And around the picturesque Westgate Towers and gardens, where the Stour flows and gondolas glide by, you are no more than 100 yards from a string of eateries as varied in quality and style as those who stride past you.

The trick, of course, is sorting the wheat from the proverbial chaff when faced with such a smörgåsbord of choice.

But the good news is that if you pick your way out of the city walls, within a stone's throw of the towers is a newcomer to the scene that has already become a force to be reckoned with.

Chapman's Seafood Bar & Brasserie is the offspring of fishmongers Chapman's of Sevenoaks – a company with a track record of taking freshly-caught fish from the county's coastline and delivering it directly to customers.

Operating where once Cafe Belge traded, the venue is all bare wooden floors, subtle lighting and sparse yet effective decoration. In short, it looks very much the part of a modern city diner.

And on Saturday night the place fills up swiftly, a warm hum of conversation and laughter spilling through the dining area.

The welcome is warm, the atmosphere convivial. The question now is whether the food

matches the impressive surroundings. Unsurprisingly, the food is predominantly seafood-based; we plumped for a seafood tapas plate as a starter and the only non-seafood dish, a goat's-cheese-and-red-onion tart.

The tart was sensational, the subtlety of the cheese offset by the tang of the onion tremendous.

As for the tapas, there was much to enjoy – if anything, possibly too much for a starter – but the herring was melt-in-the-mouth and the soft taste of salmon on a bed of vineger seaweed delightful.

For the main course we opted for a seafood platter to share – a big dish in both size and variety that would challenge even the most hungry. Prawns, shrimps, cockles, oysters, salmon, mussels and caviar all battle for your attention.

In retrospect, it's a hard dish to review – after all, it is simply shellfish served on a bed of ice – but everything tasted fresh and, as a focus while chatting, it proved ideal.

Undeterred by the generous portions, we tackled dessert – a strawberry-meringue trifle, packed with chunks of the fruit, and a dish of chocolate and raspberries.

It was all extremely satisfying, although perhaps no more so than when the bill arrived – £75 for three courses, a bottle of Prosecco and coffees. I consider that great value in what is a highly-competitive marketplace.

It would be far too harsh to hang a question mark over the cooking because of our choice of main dish – the meal as a whole was very good.

Chapman's delivers on both style and variety. Be brave when in the cathedral city and venture out of the city walls to find it.

Chris Thomson

■ **Chapman's Seafood Bar & Brasserie, 89-90 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury CT2 8AD (phone 01227 780749)**

Walmer pub takes the Kent CAMRA mantle

THE launch of the 2014 Good Beer Guide has revealed which Kent pub will be flying the county flag in CAMRA's Pub Of The Year contest.

The Berry in Walmer has been named as the Kent winner in the regional stage of the Campaign For Real Ale competition.

The hostelry in Canada Road was described in the guide as a "far from an ordinary pub, with its 10 handpumps alongside two ciders and a perry. Entertainment includes darts, pool, a monthly quiz and live music on some Saturdays. There is a real-ale festival in February, a cider festival in May, and a Continental flavour is assured at the Oktoberfest".

The 16 nominated pubs will go forward for the chance to win the National Pub Of The Year competition, won last year by The Baum in Rochdale.

Good Beer Guide editor Roger Protz said: "It's the most up-to-date guide to the best real-ale pubs in the UK and is compiled solely through recommendations and independent judgement.

"Unlike other guides which charge pubs to feature, the Good Beer Guide lists pubs on their merit alone and doesn't charge any pub or brewery for entry in the guide. If you're a lover of real ale and want to know where the best places in the UK to drink are, then the Good Beer Guide is an invaluable resource."

In total, Kent has 152 pubs listed in the guide, including 33 new pubs and 25 breweries. It also features three new Kent microbreweries – the Caveman Brewery in Swanscombe, the Mad Cat Brewery at Faversham and Walter Spencer & Sons in Ashford.

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30 November, 2013

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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 3-night semi-all-inclusive cruise on the mps Princess • Outside, twin bed cabin with private facilities - upgrades available • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

Note: Price subject to cabin grade availability at time of booking.

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Travel to join the cruise in Amsterdam is by Rail from London or by air from regional airports.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) or return flights from regional airports • 4-night full-board cruise on the MV Esmeralda • Outside, twin cabin with private facilities • Excursion to Keukenhof Gardens • Transfers abroad

Michael Buble tribute

The Rat Pack is Back tribute

Elvis tribute

Tom Jones tribute

Las Vegas Legends Seaside Party
at Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast

3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar
£109pp
Quote: PL10-KOS

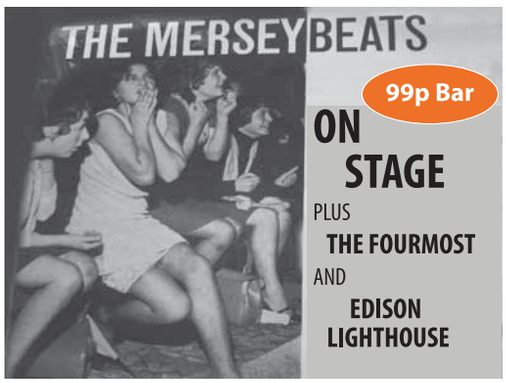
Over 40s only

Friday 4 October, 2013

The Rat Pack and an endless list of world famous stars have made Las Vegas the entertainment capital of the world. We have reserved the whole of Pontins Pakefield resort to bring you a taste of Vegas with tribute acts and a host of nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

PONTINS PAKEFIELD Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. There's a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The chalets are all single storey and situated in level landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.



Swinging 60s Christmas Party
at Pontins Pakefield Suffolk Coast

3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar
£109pp
Quote: MX11-KOS

£10pp deposit

Over 40s only

Friday 15 November 2013

We're taking a trip down memory lane at Pakefield, with a great line up of original 60s bands (and tiny bit of the 70s - Loves Grows hit the number 1 spot for Edison Lighthouse 30th Jan 1970) Plus a host of Festive and nostalgic fun.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Carry on New Year Parties
at Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

2 nights half board +99p Bar
£109pp
Quote: CO1-KOS

Fridays: 17, 24 & 31 January, 2014

Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. You'll enjoy entertainment each night, a New Year party plus 99p drinks. Set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens, the hotel has an indoor pool and gym available for guests' use.

INCLUDED: 99p bar 6pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Enhanced entertainment for 2014 - including cabaret both nights and a New Year Party • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray

See page 49

Fresh vision pulls the Hop Farm back from the brink

See page 53

Complex seeks tenants

See page 54

John Lewis at home store confirms its opening date

BusinessQuarter

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Autumn edition

Winemaker set for flotation on AIM after £7m purchase

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

SPARKLING wine producer Gusbourne Estate has been bought out for £7million, with its new management team vowing to plough millions more into the company by taking it public.

Started ten years ago by Andrew Weeber, the Appledore-based firm was taken over by the publicly-traded Shellproof plc.

Based in West Sussex, it is no stranger to the market, with its focus on the production, sale and distribution of English sparkling wine.

Now Gusbourne will be added to its stable and floated on the Alternative Stock Market (AIM). It is hoped new and existing shareholders will help it raise £2.85m.

That should fund an extra 100 acres of vines in Kent over the next two years.

Gusbourne won a Gold Award for its 2008 sparkling Brut at the 2013 International Wine and Spirits Challenge and also has its award-winning Brut Reserve, Blanc de Blanc and Guinevere, stocked in high profile retailers such as Selfridges and a number of Michelin-starred restaurants.

Bottles sell for between £20 and £30.

Former Gusbourne owner and founder Andrew Weeber will now become the non-executive chairman of the new company and is delighted with the progress of the business.

He said: "Our recent successes demonstrate the huge potential of the Gusbourne brand and I am very excited to be embarking on a new phase of business development and expansion.

"I believe the prospects for the Gusbourne Estate product range, in the context of the growing market for English sparkling and still wines, are excellent."

The Gusbourne Estate currently has 58 acres of vines.

It is hoped this will now be increased to allow it to further expand both in Kent

Continued on page 49

GROWING: The founder of Gusbourne is confident the takeover and flotatin will allow the brand to expand and flourish with its range of English sparking wines

Advertiser's Announcement

UK's only Indian takeaway chain Spice 2 Go opens its third store in Sidcup

Yesterday, the UK's first and only Indian takeaway/delivery chain opened its third store in our very own town of Sidcup, bringing 30 new jobs to the area.

At 4pm yesterday, in the form of a brightly coloured launch event featuring Bollywood dancers, Indian dhol (drum) players, and superhero mascot Spice Man, Blackfen Road saw the doors of Spice 2 Go Sidcup declared officially open.

Spice 2 Go is the newest innovation in Indian takeaway cuisine, promising to provide its customers a fresh and revolutionary Indian takeaway experience. The menu, quality of service, value-for-money, standard of hygiene, branding, and taste of its dishes remain consistent from store to store, wherever in the country you are.

Members of the press, public, and takeaway industry were invited to attend the vibrant launch ceremony at 231 Blackden Road, where they were given the chance to take a tour of the sparkly new store, as well as taste some of Spice 2 Go's delicious curries.

Not long after the opening of Spice 2 Go Sidcup, the chain will see its next few stores opening in Bristol and various London locations. The franchise chain already has stores in Swansea and Cardiff, and is predicted to have more than 500 stores across the UK over the next 10 years.

You can now order your Spice 2 Go takeaway either in store, online at Spice 2 Go's official website www.spice2go.com, or by calling the store on 020 8166 5959.

BIG BUSINESS

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The past few months have been a busy and exciting time for your Chamber. We have successfully won a number of Business Support contracts, which will see us delivering advice to both existing and start up businesses across the County.

We are delighted to be supporting Kent County Council in delivering application support to those businesses wishing to access funding via the East Kent Expansion and Tiger RGF funds. We have recently had the annual Benchmarking Report from the British Chambers of Commerce and I am pleased to say that last year your Chamber was the 6th fastest growing Accredited Chamber in the UK, which now makes Kent Invicta the 19th largest Accredited Chamber in the country. The Benchmarking survey covers all areas of activity and is a great opportunity for Chambers to learn from each other. I will be looking closely at the document to see where other Chambers are excelling and see what we can learn to ultimately benefit you all, our members.

The Chamber has reshaped its business events programme and now offer a vast array of events across the County. You have been telling us for some time now that you want to see more business to business exhibition opportunities, as so many of you have continued to benefit from the annual event in Ashford.

Responding to this, we held an additional exhibition in Canterbury in September with a further event planned for North Kent in October. Last month we held an exhibition specifically for the Engineering & Manufacturing sectors, which was well received by both exhibitors and visitors.

In November we will be staging the Construction Expo, building on from last year's successful event.

A full calander of events can be found under the events section of the Chamber website. Please do look at the service of Kent Invicta and make the most of what is on offer.

Jo James
Chief Executive

Date for the diary - Thursday 17th October 9.30 am - 5.00 pm North Kent B2B 2013, where Michael Fallon will be the keynote speaker. Full details on www.kentb2b.co.uk

Enquiries

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Chief Executive: Jo James

How fundamental change to core strategy unlocked a bright future

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

GOING STRONG: The shaken up Hop Farm has been drawing in thousands of visitors a day over the summer

WHEN news broke earlier this year that the trading arm of popular tourist attraction the Hop Farm had gone into a financial meltdown, many feared the worst.

The Paddock Wood venue had always been seen as one of the county's tourism big hitters; liquidation seemed an ominous step.

But help was at hand.

As Hop Farm Trading Ltd slipped into a black hole, there was swift interest to pick up the pieces.

And since a takeover, the venue is now once again looking forward to a "positive future" after a turbulent year.

While the ownership of the site itself was never at any risk – that was held by the Hop Farm Group – it was clearly a key component in the day-to-day running of the venue.

Bosses at the west Kent attraction claimed at the time the contributing factors of poor weather, a downturn in the economy and cancelled events had caused it to topple over.

But after a shake-up, which included a radical change to its business model, with visitors able to access the site for free and pay on a pay-as-you-play format – rather than the previous entrance fee approach – it has turned a corner.

Marketing chief Miguel Fenton believes the new business model for the Hop Farm is key to a successful future.

He said: "The company that took over was Kent Entertainment Limited which was part of the existing Hop Farm Group of companies.

"And rather than continuing as it was, because clearly it was losing money, we made a few changes.

"With any company that takes over. there is always a bit of risk involved but the new model has really worked well."

The new ideas for the Hop Farm, which boasts one of the world's largest collections of Victorian oast houses, included the renovation of the historical buildings. And the all-important scrapping of the entry fee.

Explains Mr Fenton: "We had to change the model of the Hop Farm, we made it free entry to make it more accessible to families around the county and beyond.

"We are aware people are on tighter budgets and family days out aren't cheap.

"Since doing that we have had record numbers. It has been fantastic.

"The weather has been very kind to us this summer which can have a big effect. On the bank holiday weekends we have been getting in around 6,000 people per day and regularly around 3,000 people during the school holidays."

Mr Fenton also claims that new attractions, including a 4D-cinema and Nerf combat zone for children, has also had an effect on driving up the number of visitors.

But there has also been a focus on learning the lessons of the unstable past year and moving forward.

He added: "Some original staff members were carried over to work for the new company. There was knowledge of the project and of the business and of the industry. So some members of staff from the previous company were offered roles here.

"But rather than looking at the past, we have embraced the future. We've had to do things differently."

Mr Fenton himself was one of those who allowed the continuity between its previous incarnation and today.

He adds: "The family park has changed quite a bit, and we have been using social networking a lot more. Customers have been engaging with us through that.

"We have launched the Hop Farm app to engage with people to get repeat users. People are coming along, enjoying their day out. Coming back is really important, because if people don't come back you soon run out of potential customers."

But the Hop Farm will have to work hard to re-capture the glory days of recent years after it suffered a number of body blows in the last 12 months – including the loss of the lucrative War and Peace Show to Folkestone Racecourse after 25 years at Paddock Wood.

They were also rocked by the news in May that the popular music event, the Hop Farm Festival, would be cancelled for the foreseeable future due to outstanding debts and poor ticket sales (see box).

But Mr Fenton believes this may give the attraction licence to wipe the slate clean and move on with their own ideas.

He said: "We are not financially involved with the company that runs the festival, they are a third party. As far as our new company is concerned the festival was not factored into the year as it was touch and go anyway. But who knows for next year?

"That is down to the festival's promoter, Vince Power, and his company if they want to bring it back.

"If not we have taken on a number of leads for similar events. Some of these could really put the Hop Farm into the spotlight so there are some really good things ahead."

FESTIVAL PROMOTERS HIT THE WRONG NOTE AMID VOW TO RETURN

The problems with Hop Farm Trading Limited came amid turmoil from the music promoters behind the Hop Farm Music Festival – a entirely separate event and organisation.

After several years of successful events, the festival found 2012 a struggle as it went up against the combined might of the Olympic Games, the Queen's Jubilee, an economic slump and non-stop summer rain.

Publicly traded Music Festivals plc, run by Vince Power, suffered and the share price crumbled as the company slipped into administration.

Within it was Kent Festivals Ltd which held the majority of rights to the Hop Farm Festival.

It seemed likely the 2013 event would not take place but, defying the odds, Vince Power announced a smaller scale event would take place in July. The capacity reduced from 50,000 to just 10,000, with it slipping from a three-day event to just two. The calibre of performers also took a nosedive.

The consequences were somewhat predictable. Amid apathy, ticket sales failed to hit targets and it was cancelled.

However, Mr Power says he hopes to bring the Hop Farm Festival back in future years.

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Lorraine May
Centre Manager

Export figures for south east balloon

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE south east is the UK's biggest regional exporter, according to the latest government figures.

HM Revenue and Customs says the total value of exports from the region for the first half of the year is £22.66 billion.

Overseas sales have risen from £10.83bn in the last quarter of 2012 – running from October to December – to £11.57bn in the second quarter of 2013 – April to June.

The number of exporters in the south east, between April to June 2013, was 8,659, a slight rise compared to the same period in 2012.

The rise of exports to fast growing, emerging markets in Africa, the Far East and South America has been particularly welcomed by south east regional director for UK Trade & Investment, Lewis Scott.

He said: "Although the European Union continues to be the south east's largest exporting market, countries like India, Brazil, Uruguay and Nigeria have shown the greatest growth potential.

"Between the last quarter of 2012 and the second quarter of 2013, exports to India from the south east grew by 15 per cent and now stand at nearly £165 million.

"Smaller Asian markets such as the Philippines have shown even more growth, with exports to the Philippines rising by 47 per cent in the same period.

"Exports to Latin America and the Caribbean have leapt in value from £175m in the last quarter of 2012 to nearly £330m between April-June 2013, with exports to Uruguay and Venezuela more than doubling in this timeframe.

"Similarly, African markets are doing well, with the south east trebling its exports to Nigeria from the end of last year to the second quarter of this year – from £41m to £127m. These markets are where our future growth lies, so we are keen to build on this, which is why UKTI in the south east is organising trade missions to Singapore, Thailand, India and the Philippines and Brazil and events on the themes of Africa and Brazil.

"The USA remains our biggest single market with south east exports worth £1.7bn between April-June 2013. This compares to when they were worth £1.5bn in the last quarter of 2012 – a rise of 11.3 per cent."

EXPORTING: Lewis Scott of UK Trade & Investment

EMPLOYMENT

Employers in the south east remain cautiously optimistic about adding to their workforces, according to the latest figures.

The Manpower Employment Outlook Survey quizzed more than 2,000 employers across the UK and asks whether employers intend to hire additional workers or reduce the size of their workforce in the coming economic quarter.

In quarter four, there was a positive outlook of plus seven per cent – up one per cent on the year before. It sees the south east continue its run of several quarters of modest job creation.

Paul Laurie, operations manager at Manpower, said: "The strong finish to the year in Q4 has been driven by activity in some key sectors, such as construction, insurance and financial services and the property sector.

"We are seeing a big push from clients to bring relevant experience into their businesses when they hire, and some areas such as IT and language skills are particularly desired. However there is a high number of skilled job seekers in the market and candidates understand there is a lot of competition for longer term and higher paid roles."

LOOKING FORWARD: The Gusborne Estate aims to increase its production of still and sparkling wines

AWARDS

In 2013, the Gusbourne Estate celebrated its best year yet, gaining a number of top awards in various competitions.

The full list of gold and silver awards added in 2013:

- Gusbourne Brut Reserve 2008: International Wine And Spirit Competition Gold and Decanter World Wide Awards Silver
- Gusbourne Blanc de Blancs 2008: International Wine Challenge Gold and IWSC Silver
- Gusbourne Estate Rose 2009: DWWA Silver
- Gusbourne Guinevere 2011: Decanter Gold and Regional Trophy as well as IWC Silver

Growing for the future

Continued from page 47

as well as sites in West Sussex.

Shellproof has said that, with the boost in orchards, it intends to have Gusbourne producing more than 500,000 bottles per year of still and sparkling wine by 2024.

The timescale to reach peak production is based on three years of vine planting, then four years for the vines to reach maturity and four more for sparkling wine to mature.

It is also planned that there will be 16 full time employees and more than 100 pickers will be employed seasonally.

CEO of the group. Ben Walgate, confirmed Gusbourne will retain the "core" of the employees who helped grow the business since its beginning.

He said: "I am delighted to lead such a talented executive team as we expand and grow the Gusbourne brand. I am also very much looking forward to working closely with our chairman, Andrew Weeber, who has achieved great success with the business over the past 10 years. We see great opportunities for a brand of such premium quality. We will retain and continue the best practices that have been instilled from the very beginning at Gusbourne."

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Jobs created after facility purchased

MANUFACTURER and distributor Medway (UK) Ltd has expanded after snapping up another production facility at the Kingsnorth Industrial Estate in Ashford.

The new facility is based close to its head office on the Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate and will provide further "market expansion opportunities" within the industry and potentially create 20 extra jobs.

With the latest acquisition, it now has more than 66,000 square feet of floor space.

Medway (UK) Ltd is renowned within the manufacturing industry for producing rod end and spherical bearings, ball joints and custom-made linkages, as well as having one of Europe's largest stock holdings of ball and roller bearings, drive belts and pulleys, chains, sprockets and couplings.

Mediation service is ready to make peace

A MEDIATION service has launched across Kent in a bid to provide a low cost way of resolving divorce and separation issues, following the withdrawal of legal aid.

All Issues Mediation has offices in Ashford, Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Herne Bay, Hythe, Maidstone, Thanet and Whitstable.

It is the brainchild of founder and qualified family mediator Tom Lawson.

He explained: "Mediation is not marriage guidance or counselling, but a totally voluntary and confidential process. This will help people's lives move forward without the animosity, stress and expense of court."

Orbit scoops regional apprenticeship gong

MAIDSTONE-based housing association Orbit East has been named winners in the south east regional final of the Investors in People Apprenticeship Newcomer Employer of the Year category in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2013.

The winners were notified during visits this week.

The firm offes a multi-agency 'upskilling' programme, incorporating one year apprenticeship programmes where apprentices gain work experience and training whilst studying for a recognised qualification.

Orbit goes into the national event in Birmingham in November.

Regulations tighten for scrap dealers

SCRAP metal dealers face tougher regulations when new legislation comes into effect from October.

Under the new Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, every scrap metal dealer, collector and motor salvage operator will have to hold a licence to operate.

Operating without a licence, from October 1, will be a criminal offence.

Under the new legislation, the definition of scrap metal dealers has also been extended to include motor salvage operators, previously administered by trading standards, and replaces previous operating provisions granted to them under the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001.

ADVERTORIAL

John D Hotchkiss Ltd 75 years in business

WEST Kingsdown - based Hotchkiss family engineering group are celebrating a special anniversary this year after supplying, servicing and solving engineering projects for 75 years.

From its small beginnings with the princely sum of £75 in a rented blacksmith's forge in 1938, to their extensive purpose-built factory premises and workshops on two separate sites, Hotchkiss Engineers have been admired for their pioneering inventive flair and practical problem solving in the engineering area.

The original 'Governor', John D Hotchkiss, enjoyed a lucky combination of skill and creative thinking for all things engineering. The much-admired Hotchkiss motor car is still an eye-catching example of his exciting engineering ideas.

The company's well-deserved local reputation for inventiveness and overcoming difficulties was expanded dramatically to one of worldwide importance with his invention of the Hotchkiss Portable Rotary Lathe, which pioneered in-situ engineering in 1959.

A corresponding expansion of staff and premises followed, to cope with the many engineering contracts within the paper, shipping, cement, coal and steel industries over the following years.

More recently, the Governor's grandson, Tom Sisley, has taken over the reins. His fresh ideas create an excellent partnership with the experience of the group managing director Ben Gordon-Smith.

The heavy engineering activities of Hotchkiss Engineering at Kingsdown were expanded to include a second premises in the early 80's, being Westwell Developments Ltd. based in Rochester.

The sister company offers a rapid response to requests for in-situ plant repairs both at home and abroad.

The demise of many traditional British industries brought more changes for the group. To stay in the engineering arena has meant updating skills and investing in modern equipment to fulfil the company's mantra of **meeting customers' needs**.

The Group are proud to have been awarded Supplier Approval Category 4 to the oil and gas industries in 2013 widening the opportunities to work offshore and subsea in the energy sector.

Hotchkiss Engineers have also recently undergone a vetting process examining their health and safety procedures and track record for safe practice, resulting in their Safe Contractor Approval accreditation, which is recognised by many major companies as a confirmation of competency.

For more information please visit www.hotchkiss-engineers.co.uk.

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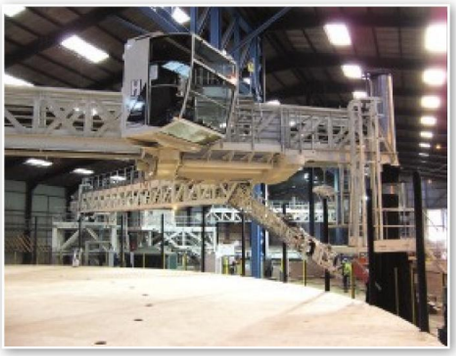

To find out more about Hotchkiss Engineers and their services:
T: 01474 853131

John D Hotchkiss Engineering is a family owned Heavy Engineering company based in Kent.

They provide both in-situ and workshop based heavy engineering services.

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www.hotchkiss-engineers.co.uk
www.westwelldevelopments.com

Advertiser's announcement

Corporate Christmas Parties at the Red Lion

A picturesque 14th Century pub situated in a small village near the town of Faversham. Surrounded in history the pub dates back to the 1300's and still contains many original features. The pub offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently changing seasonal specials. Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the church and village green and a well established pub garden with many historical features.

Our Function Room and new restaurant are the perfect place to host your Christmas party, fantastic service and a choice of great food for all of your festive fun. The warm cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night.

Not only for corporate functions with the traditional log fires, home–cooked food and live entertainment this free house has something for everyone.

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www.theredlion.org.uk

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Function Room available

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Why not come visit us for your Sunday lunch as well
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Choose from a selection of meats including pork, lamb and beef served with all the trimmings.

01227 751207 www.theredlion.org

Park in growth mode as complex completed

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MAJOR new office complex near Maidstone is ready to welcome its first tenant after construction was completed.

The latest speculative office development forms part of the growing Hermitage Court business park sited near junction five of the M20.

Close to Barming railway station, on the outskirts of the county town, the latest phase was completed by Gallagher Properties – the commercial development team of the Gallagher Group.

It follows the recent pre-letting of another speculative office building at the development to Havas Shared Services Ltd.

The 5,150ft sq building is being touted as a possible future new home to a single business or up to four smaller companies, all on a leasehold basis.

It will be fitted out to the specification of the occupiers.

Stephen Gallagher of Gallagher Properties said: "With it being a little over a mile from the motorway, Hermitage Court offers easy access to London, the M25, Ashford and the Channel ports, making it perfectly placed to satisfy businesses looking for a highly efficient location and great environment for their employees.

DEVELOPMENT: The new complex could house between one and four businesses

"With the upturn in the economy strengthening and the Maidstone area continuing to punch above its weight in terms of business growth, we have seen significant interest across our property portfolio. We are confident this latest building at Hermitage Court will soon be home to one, or more, companies."

Businesses moving into Hermitage Court will join Kent Community NHS Trust, MCCH, SECOM and most recent arrival Havas Shared Services Ltd, a subsidiary of Havas, one of the world's largest global advertising, digital and communications groups, which has its headquarters in Paris.

Garage revamped

KWIK Fit has opened up its refurbished centre in Ashford following "significant" investment.

Among the work is a redesigned reception area and the addition of specialist laser wheel alignment equipment.

The mayor and mayoress of Ashford, David Smith and Christine Kathawick-Smith, were in attendance to meet the team at the Mace Lane branch and officially declare the centre open to the public.

Cllr Smith said: "The town is very fortunate that the company selected the Ashford branch for refurbishment with all the latest technology and equipment, and it was clear that staff and customers alike were pleased with the improvements.

"It's commendable that there's an apprenticeship scheme to give young people a helping hand by creating jobs and giving them valuable career skills. I hope young people in Ashford will see the benefit and apply."

Centre manager of Kwik Fit Ashford, Darren Doe, said: "It's given the staff a real boost that our work has been recognised, and our centre has been given major investment. All the team at Mace Lane take great pride in our work and now we have a working environment to match our ambition to deliver the best possible service."

Last call to landowners to suggest suitable sites

LANDOWNERS in Ashford are being advised there is still time to put forward land suitable for development to form part of the town's Local Plan.

There is just over a week to go before the deadline as Ashford Borough Council looks to replace its existing Core Strategy – which sets out the strategic vision for planned growth, housing and jobs in the area – with the Local Plan.

It will set out the borough's goals up until 2030.

The new plan will need to identify sufficient land to provide for new jobs and homes in the borough to 2030, as well as places for leisure and retail uses, visitor and tourism facilities and for gypsy and travellers' accommodation.

David Robey, portfolio holder for planning and development, said: "As part of the review of our adopted Core Strategy and the creation of our new Local Plan, we need to know what potential sites are in the borough which could be developed.

"That's why we are asking landowners to come forward and let us know if they have any land which they would like to be considered for inclusion in the plan. There is still time, so please get in touch."

FOR THE FUTURE: Land is needed to build new homes

Once a site is submitted, it will be assessed by the council and only included in the plan if it is deemed suitable for development.

To be considered for residential development, sites should be over 0.4 hectares in size in the Ashford urban area or over 0.2 hectares elsewhere, or be able to accommodate 10 dwellings or more. If the proposal is for more than 100 dwellings, an additional form will need to be completed.

The deadline for completed forms to be submitted is Friday, September 27. See www.ashford.gov.uk/shlaa to find out more.

MOMENTUM IS BUILDING: The new John Lewis store in Ashford is currently being fitted out and will open to shoppers in November

John Lewis to be at home in time for festive season

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE eagerly anticipated new John Lewis store will open its doors to customers in good time for Christmas, it was confirmed this week.

The John Lewis 'at home' store – currently under construction just off junction nine of the M20 in Ashford – will open for the first time at 9am on November 7.

It will focus on furniture, furnishing accessories, electrical and home technology. The 40,000 sq ft shop will be spread across two floors and will be the retailer's tenth 'at home' shop.

The only other Kent 'at home' store is in Tunbridge Wells.

The shop will feature a customer cafe and additional services includng a new service which lets customers design their own sofas and chairs by choosing from more than 250 frames and 400 fabrics.

Glynis Gunning-Stevenson, branch manager, John Lewis at home Ashford, said: "It's fantastic to see momentum build as the shop starts to really take shape ahead of opening day."

Gerry Clarkson, leader of Ashford Borough Council said: "This is really positive news. We have said all along that John Lewis is exactly the type of company we want to attract to the borough and I believe that when such a successful name with a strong reputation for high quality invests in your area it demonstrates the confidence that exists in Ashford as a place to do business.

"Ashford weathered the economic downturn well and this is evidence of the exciting period that now awaits us.

"Of course, in being able to achieve an opening date in the run-up to Christmas, it increases our retail offer at a crucial time of year, complementing our bustling town centre."

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Closer Financial Partners is a new financial advisory service that has recently opened in Canterbury, Kent. We are five long standing friends who had been working as financial consultants within the banking sector and it became apparent that having worked together for many years within financial services, we all shared a common goal. The goal is simple, we want to share our passion for focussing on our customers, to be able to understand what their goals and aspirations are and to devote our time, knowledge and experience to help our customers achieve them.

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Health apprenticeship programme nominated for national accolade

NHS: Recruitment day

A PIONEERING project set up by the NHS and Canterbury College to recruit and train hospital staff has been nominated for a top award.

The healthcare science student apprenticeship programme, launched by the college's training and recruitment service (CTR) and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, was selected for a Health Service Journal accolade for its innovation in workforce development.

The scheme has seen 10 student apprentices taking assistant healthcare scientist positions at hospitals run by the trust; the QEQM in Margate, the William Harvey in Ashford and Kent and Canterbury.

The college has also helped recruit 10 apprentices in surgical services and children's services departments.

All of the apprentices are studying towards a BTEC.

Port invites youngsters on board work scheme

THE Port of Dover is working with the UK Sailing Academy (UKSA) to provide 12 work placements giving young people hands on experience in the maritime industry.

It forms part of UKSA's East Kent Change Directions programme, in which participants study marine activities.

UKSA's Simon Davies said: "It's completely unique and is already a proven success story, creating transformational opportunities." The port said it was delighted to be involved.

Changes to support for SEN and disabled pupils

A ROADSHOW has been held to explain upcoming changes to special educational needs and disability support for parents and carers in Medway.

The event at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus was organised by the Medway Parents and Carers Forum.

Those with a child with a disability or who needs extra help at school are currently finding out about changes to support.

For information see medwaypcf.org.uk.

Oasis academy hextable

Open Evening
Wednesday 18th September 2013
5pm – 8pm

Open Mornings
Thursday 19th & Friday 20th September 2013
9:30am – 12 noon

Learn and Inspire: for a life of limitless potential

Oasis Academy Hextable
Egerton Avenue
Hextable
Kent
BR8 7LU
Tel: 01322 668621

Ofsted Report 2013 "Standards of attainment throughout the school are rising rapidly and students are now making good progress".

www.oasisacademyhextable.org

EDUCATION: Series of events will help guide those still unsure of what educational path to choose

Support for students yet to decide on career path

IT'S been almost a month since GCSE students nervously opened their results envelopes, with more than 18,000 young people now starting courses or apprenticeships.

But for the small remainder yet to decide on the next step in their educational careers, Kent County Council is holding a series of events in each of the districts across the county to offer support and advice – and perhaps help guide some in the right direction.

Under government changes, young people have to stay in some form of education or training meaning the pressure is on to find a suitable next step, whether at school, college or in an apprenticeship or training.

Pupils who left Year 11 this summer need to continue until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 17.

Those starting Year 11 or below this month will need to continue in education or training until at least their 18th birthday.

While 87 per cent of those who finished Year 11 this summer in Kent have already received offers of places in further education, apprenticeships, sixth form or employment with training, KCC is targeting those who are still considering their options.

Young people unsure about their next move are also being encouraged by KCC to look at the website kentchoices4u.com which it says is a key place to look at all the options.

Cabinet member for education, Roger Gough, urged youngsters to either look at the website or attend one of the events.

"Continued learning, in whatever environment, can make a huge difference to every young person's employment chances in the future – and help them to be prepared for the world of work as well as adult life," he said.

"It's great news that thousands of young people have already accepted offers to go to college, stay on at a school sixth form, take up an apprenticeship or start some other kind of employment with training.

"For those who haven't got that far yet, it's important that young people take their GCSE results and think about what they can do with what they have got."

He added: "There is information of all kinds out there and I would really urge anyone who starts Year 12 this month and doesn't already have an offer to look at the information on the kentchoices4u.com website or get along to one of the events taking place."

The council has joined up with its partners across the county to ensure young people are given access to crucial advice and support.

At the district events, they will be handed a postcard explaining how to find out what their options are and where to get more information.

For more information about options available visit www.kentchoices4u.com.

To find an event near you see www.kent.gov.uk. All advice events are taking place across the county this month.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

It's never too late to learn new career skills

A BUSINESSWOMAN has proved it's never too late to learn a new skill after retraining as a plumber.

Sue Grogan, from Whitstable, worked in various roles before setting up a handywoman business.

And despite turning 50, she decided to train with New Career Skills, which specialises in training adults for careers as plumbers, electricians and renewables.

She explained: "I decided I needed to train as a plumber as it is about 20 per cent of the work I do so I wanted to stretch myself and gain a new skill.

"I saw there was a demand for people who do small jobs as well as larger ones so I did some research and decided that New Career Skills suited me best and trained with them.

"Studying isn't my forte; I got along better with the practical side.

"But it really increased my confidence as I found I could do things and it was also good for building up a network of contacts."

She said it was the right move setting up her own business. "I love meeting people and being my own boss, making decisions that affect me."

Find out more about New Career Skills by calling freephone 0800 037 9934.

Airport showcases its growing appeal ahead of £25m upgrade

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

LYDD Airport bosses have continued to showcase the airport's £25 million development plans at two aviation industry events.

On Wednesday and Thursday it was at Biggin Hill Airport exhibiting at Business Aircraft Europe 2013, one of Europe's leading business aviation events, where it highlighted Lydd's ambitious plans for growth as well as its already successful and specialised corporate and executive travel services.

And on Tuesday managers will be networking with industry professionals from across Europe at the ninth UK Business & General Aviation Day (BGAD), hosted by Cambridge Airport, where the team will be promoting Lydd's plans for an extended runway and new terminal to visitors and exhibiting companies, including charter operators.

LOOKING FORWARD: Lydd Airport

Following government approval of its planning applications in April, Lydd Holdings, which owns and operates Lydd Airport, also known as London Ashford Airport, is to invest £25m in a 294m runway extension plus a 150m starter extension, and new terminal building.

The owners have already spent £35m upgrading the airport over the last decade – including installation of a state-of-the-art ILS (instrument landing system); new executive terminal with VIP facilities; improved passenger check-in and security; and new departure lounge.

Executive manager Hani Mutlaq said: "Our runway extension will enable B737-type aircraft to fly with a full payload of passengers, which will hugely increase the availability of routes and aircraft choice to airline operators.

"Lydd Airport is perfectly positioned. It has 2.5 million people within its catchment area, is within easy access of the M20 motorway, and is just 14 miles south of Ashford, which offers a high-speed rail link that gets you into London in just 37 minutes."

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF SITE

Businesses have until September 20 to comment on the plans for the future of Rochester Airport.

The draft proposals could create 1,000 new jobs and improve facilities that would increase the airport's heritage tourism potential.

The airport site was first established in 1933 and is owned by Medway Council. It is leased to an airport operator – Rochester Airport Limited.

The proposals, which were first announced last autumn, involve replacing many of the existing buildings and facilities on the airport, many of which are showing signs of age.

They would also include a reconfiguration of the existing runways. One of the grass runways on site will be closed and replaced with a new parallel grass and paved runway. The paved runway will allow a small aircraft to take off and climb to a higher altitude very quickly, reducing – the airport claims – the impact of noise on surrounding homes.

The grass runway will allow Medway Aircraft Preservation Society (MAPS) to continue to use the site for heritage aircraft and open days. It would not lead to the site becoming a full-scale commercial passenger carrying airport.

The new runway layout could allow 29 acres near Rochester Airport Industrial Estate to be developed as a new hub for science or technology related firms – with the potential to eventually create up to 1,000 new skilled jobs.

Medway Council's cabinet agreed to carry out a formal consultation to decide a final master plan that will set the template for any future development.

Alan Jarrett, deputy leader of Medway Council and portfolio holder for finance, said: "We want to put a plan in place for Rochester Airport that ensures its future prosperity.

"The consultation gives residents and businesses the opportunity to have their say before the master plan is agreed."

Visit www.medway.gov.uk/rochesterairport to find out more about the proposals for Rochester Airport.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

HS1 rides in to join up with Visit Kent group

HIGH Speed 1 (HS1), operator of the county's high-speed railway line and the international stations at Ashford, Ebbsfleet and St Pancras, has joined two of Kent's key historic houses in becoming the latest businesses to join Visit Kent as investor partners to promote the county.

The two historic houses are Godinton House and Gardens, near Ashford, and Chiddingstone Castle, near Edenbridge.

Other new Visit Kent investors, with a strong commitment to serving Kent produce to visitors and residents alike, include the Goods Shed, at Canterbury, Rocksalt restaurant, at Folkestone, and Macknade Fine Foods, at Faversham.

Visit Kent, based in Canterbury, is a not-for-profit public/private partnership.

'Smallest office in Kent' opened by MP

BUSINESS and energy minister Michael Fallon cut the ribbon on what is being dubbed the county's smallest office recently.

The Pump House is the former Victorian building which once pumped water up to Shoreham Station for steam trains.

Now it is home to Smartt-Vehicles - the UK's first automated vehicle management smartphone app which launches later this month.

London Array hires in local accountants

THE world's largest offshore wind farm, the London Array in the outer Thames Estuary, has appointed DSH Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors in Maidstone to provide it with accounting and tax services for the next three years.

For DSH partner Duncan Cochrane-Dyet, the appointment is recognition of the quality of DSH's teams.

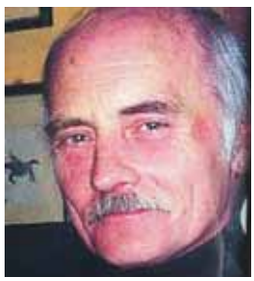
Turf firm to pay £180,000 for health and safety breach that killed worker

A ROMNEY Marsh-based aggregate company has been ordered to pay more than £180,000 in fines and costs after a worker was killed by dangerous lifting equipment on a tipper lorry.

Brian Peek, 57, from Ashford, sustained fatal injuries while unloading bags of hardcore and aggregate for Moores Turf & Top Soil Limited in Wittersham in 2006.

The lorry was fitted with a small crane and clam shell bucket, which he used to grab the bags and lower them to the ground. As Mr Peek unloaded the final bag, he leant over the back of the lorry and the crane slew around, trapping his neck between the bucket and the back of the lorry's tipping body. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Canterbury Crown Court heard this week that an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the equipment supplied to Mr Peek was in a poor state of repair and was unsafe.



VICTIM: Brian Peek was 57

The incident could have been prevented had more suitable equipment been provided for the task, such as a flatbed lorry and forklift truck. Moores had such equipment available but chose to send the crane-mounted tipper instead.

Moores Turf & Top Soil Limited, of Callington Court Farm, Romney Marsh, was fined a total of £85,000 and ordered to pay a further £97,791 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

After sentencing, HSE's Mike Walters said: "Brian Peek's death should have been prevented. Had Moores Turf & Top Soil taken time to properly assess the risks associated with the delivery of bulky bags of hardcore and aggregate, it would have become clear a safer method of working was necessary and could be used.

"Employers must ensure they properly maintain equipment, and provide employees with the most suitable equipment for tasks. They must also ensure safe systems of work are followed on site during the unloading of goods."

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Alfa's £500 present to its 63-plate buyers
- Concept Sportsvan future for Golf Plus?
- All-new Mazda3 on road to prove toughness

Impressive 2008 shows Peugeot is getting a firm grip

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI has transformed itself in the eyes of UK buyers.

Along with Korean sister brand Kia, it has added style, quality and reliability to its strong value-for-money suit.

A driving force in this revolution has been the ix35 SUV launched in 2010.

It replaced the Tucson, best described as competent, and immediately recruited a new wave of buyers to the brand. Indeed, dealers complained regularly that they simply could not get enough ix35s to meet demand.

Good-looking and – as ever with this brand – groaning with standard equipment, the new car also offered something that hadn't been obvious with Hyundai before – it was much nicer to be in, drive and own than its predecessor. It is this ability to make quantum leaps with each generation that has seen the Korean marques gain market penetration.

Indeed, the leap made by the ix35 was so great that it's hard to notice any changes to the facelift model launched this month, even though Hyundai insists on calling it 'New ix35'.

Despite this slightly misleading marketing, I can't really moan at Hyundai for adopting a 'don't fix it if it ain't broke' policy here, since so much was good about the ix35 first time around. Instead, the brand has undertaken a painstaking programme of tweaks, most notably to the existing chassis and suspension set-up, to boost ride comfort and handling.

Understandably, with emissions and fuel consumption high on the agenda, there have been upgrades to powertrain options, too, including economical automatic transmission.

Already generous standard kit has also been boosted by smart LED daytime running lights and positioning lights – as on the all-new and bigger Santa Fe – a tyre-pressure monitoring system, Trailer Stability Assist for towing and upgraded audio and navigation systems.

The range opens at £16,995 – £560 less than the pre-facelift line-up – with the S spec 1.6-litre GDi 2WD manual, featuring 16-inch alloys, remote central-locking with alarm, USB and AUX connections, air-con, glove compartment with cooling function, trip computer, Hillstart Assist Control (HAC) and downhill brake control. For those who want all-wheel-drive, this is available from £22,895.

But it's not the bargain end of the line-up that generates most interest; Hyundai dealers have been telling me for some time that the ix35 kicked off a trend towards customers 'up-speccing' the brand's line-up, so the Premium (from £22,595) and Premium Panorama (from £23,395) trims will catch the eye. These come with 18-inch alloys, bi-xenon headlights with self-levelling system, chrome door handles, headlamp washers, keyless entry, leather seats and privacy glass. As you might expect from the name, the Premium Panorama also benefits from electric tilt-and-slide panoramic sunroof.

HYUNDAI IX35

Price: from £16,995
Driving appeal: ★★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Skoda Yeti

Revolutionary Hyundai revitalised by 'new' look

CHANGED: The ix35 has been significantly tweaked, but does it really deserve the name new?

DON'T LIKE

... to see it described as the New ix35, when it is clearly a mild facelift of the same car, but Hyundai did get it right first time with the ix35

NOT SURE

... buyers will be fooled by the 'new' prefix, but they may well fall for the newly added high spec Premium and Premium Panorama models

REALLY LIKE

... how the ix35 highlights the way Hyundai has matured, adding quality and desirability to value and that five-year/unlimited miles warranty

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†Deposit contribution only available with a Hyundai finance scheme. On the road (OTR) price shown includes customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *5.9% APR available on all ix35 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man). 2nd September and 30th September 2013, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 S 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO2 Emissions 158 g/km.

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Peugeot gets grip on the cheap

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SUNNY summer days are not a complete test for Peugeot's clever new 2008 crossover.

However, drawing on two live experiences, I can create a virtual test to tell you how well the new car's Grip Control feature works.

Firstly, I attended a launch event a few months back at which I drove the 2008 up and down a steep, ungritted 14-degree incline of snow and ice at an indoor ski-slope... it remained under complete control.

Secondly, I can picture the traffic chaos on the shallower hill leading into our village as parents try to drive their kids to school during a light dusting of snow. Based on my ski-slope experience, I know the 2008 would breeze it, and with only front-wheel-drive – there is no 4x4 version.

Like the French lion brand's bigger 3008 crossover – preferred parlance for cars with SUV style that also 'cross over' into MPV and family hatchback territory – the new 2008 is available with Grip Control.

This advanced traction control system for the front wheels is partnered with all-season 'Mud & Snow' tyres to give pseudo 4x4 performance in most on-road situations.

This neatly does away with my chief concerns with 'soft-roader' 4x4s: upfront cost, plus added weight and consumption of tyres and fuel. Other car-makers are coming up with or researching similar systems to Grip Control, which has a simple dial with five icons to represent the following settings: Normal, Snow, Off-Road, Sand or ESP (electronic stability control programme) Off.

The system is available as standard from £16,250 on upmarket Allure and Feline models with most 2008 powertrains.

But what is also impressive about the 2008 is its value for money; based on Peugeot's classy 208 supermini, you will pay a premium of just £2,000 to get yourself into its chunky big brother.

The £12,995 start price buys the Access spec low-emission 82bhp 1.2-litre turbocharged three-cylinder petrol model. This light and lively engine complements the car's pleasant dynamics, incurs just £30-a-year road tax after a freebie year one and has an official combined 57.6mpg – another signal that petrol is fighting back against diesel.

Though buzzy when cruising the motorway and not available with Grip Control, it's a cheap way into this versatile crossover, which offers decent room in the back: a 360-litre boot that humiliates the rival Nissan Juke's 207 litres and proper fold-flat rear seats for a big cargo area.

For comparison, the cheapest diesel (70bhp 1.4-litre) is £14,295, but a stately 0-62mph in 14.9 seconds argues against that and most buyers will head for up-spec 1.6-litre petrol and diesel models (from £14,850) with a decent blend of power and economy plus Grip Control.

I would go for broke with the 115bhp 1.6-litre diesel tested here in top-spec Feline trim (from £19,145). The engine has plenty of power with economy – a claimed 70.6mpg on the official combined cycle – and will cost you just £20 a year to tax after year one.

Good handling and ride comfort come as standard on the 2008 anyway, but I also like the big and airy cabin on what is still, remember, a relatively compact car.

The high driving position and space is enhanced on Feline models by a full-length Cielo panoramic glass roof, which has an electric sunblind and, for night-time, electric-blue strips of lighting at its sides – very futuristic.

What I'm not sold on is the 2008 styling; it is better looking than the Juke – a Marmite motor if ever there was one – but struggles to match the newly-launched, sexy-looking Renault Captur.

HOLD TIGHT: Peugeot's Grip Control feature on some 2008 models offers remarkable handling on slippy or poor terrain as motoring editor Steve Loader found out during a recent launch event where the car towed a snowboarder (above)

PEUGEOT 2008 FELINE 1.6 E-HDI 115: PRICE £19,145

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£20 (zero year one)
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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

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ALFA Romeo has marked the arrival of the 63-plate by giving buyers an additional £500 deposit contribution until September 23 towards any new MiTo supermini (pictured) or Giulietta sporting five-door hatchback, on top of existing offers.

The MiTo Live Limited Edition with turbocharged TwinAir engine is available with £2,000 deposit plus monthly payments of just £159.

Next Golf Plus – a Sportsvan?

VOLKSWAGEN has answered a long-running question about replacing the Golf Plus – the family hatchback's high-roof MPV-style spin-off.

The new Sportsvan Concept car is said to be the basis of the next Plus, except that it may not be called that.

All the German giant will confirm is that it won't be called Sportsvan when it hits UK roads.

Marathon test for the Mazda3

MAZDA turned pre-launch testing of the all-new Mazda3 into a headline-grabber by sending a team of cars on a gruelling 9,300-mile drive from Hiroshima to Frankfurt.

A further twist put the cars in the hands of company outsiders to test their capabilities and toughness. British media and Mazda dealers from the UK drove the first three legs of the route.

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For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/01067/FUL: Prospect Field, Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4LT Creation of wooden seat in form of stag beetle beside Footpath CW52 **Applicant: Canterbury City Council** Reason: Major development.

CA//13/01388/FUL: 2 Tile Kiln Hill, Blean, CT2 9EE Change of use from garage workshop to annexe adjoining main dwelling, application for the retention of conversion works completed in 2012 and the change of use from agricultural land to garden for land to the rear of nos 2 and 2a Tile Kiln Hill. **Applicant: Mr Dash** Reason: Major development.

CA//13/01602/TPO: 2 Rochester Avenue, Canterbury, CT1 3YE Crown reduction of cedar tree protected by TPO no 12 of 1975. **Applicant: Miss S Bolton** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01603/FUL: 69 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HL Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mrs L Condron** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01631/CAC: The Barton, Patrixbourne Road, Bekesbourne, CT4 5BP Demolition of garage. **Applicant: Ms J De Bliek** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA//13/01644/FUL: 53 St Augustines Road, Canterbury, CT1 1XR Single-storey rear extension and first-floor rear extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Taborn** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01652/FUL: 19 Dering Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5RD Construction of single-storey side extension to provide shower room and wc. **Applicant: Mr J Fishpool** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01658/FUL: 104 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DZ Demolition of existing flat roof rear extension and the building of new rear extension with a pitched roof. **Applicant: Mr A Britton** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01660/CAC: 66 Broad Street, Canterbury, CT1 2LS Conservation area consent to take down a 2m fence in connection with the formation of a rear vehicular access through side fence in between existing adjoining garages. **Applicant: Mr G Manning** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.

CA//13/01663/ADV: 20 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BH Installation of two externally illuminated fascia signs and one externally illuminated projecting sign. **Applicant: Paddy Power Plc** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01668/FUL: 28B The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA Removal of garage door to front and replacing with glazed screen, change of use from garage to habitable room and erection of a single storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Manning Press** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/01669/LB: 28 B The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA Removal of garage door to front and replacing with glazed screen, erection of a single storey rear extension and internal alterations **Applicant: Mr Manning Press** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/01677/FUL: 18 Cecil Park, Herne Bay, CT6 6DL Replacement windows, doors, fascia, soffit, gutters and downpipe to front elevation. **Applicant: Mr Townsend** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01678/FUL: 19 Westbere Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HJ Proposed porch to front elevation. **Applicant: Mr N Rainey** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01684/LB: 62 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3RS Replacement joinery to front of property. **Applicant: Mr Toman** Reason: Work to a Listed Building

CA//13/01685/FUL: 62 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3RS Replacement joinery to front of property. **Applicant: Mr Toman** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

CA//13/01686/LB: 24 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AY Construction of a new disabled wc and the works include the enlargement of a doorway, new door leaf and architrave. **Applicant: Ask Italian Restaurants Ltd** Reason: Work to a listed building.

CA//13/01687/FUL: 86 Woodlawn Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HH Replacement of uPVC door and uPVC windows on front elevation with wooden front door and timber box sash windows. **Applicant: Mr Duffy** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01697/FUL: 51 Pound Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BZ Replacement of all windows and back door with uPVC frames. **Applicant: Mr T Jameson** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01698/FUL: Argyle House, Sea Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1BX Dormer windows to front and rear, internal alterations and render to front elevation. **Applicant: Mr D Cholerton** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01699/FUL: Camburgh House, 27-29 New Dover Road, Canterbury Proposed bridge link between 27 and 29 New Dover Road. **Applicant: Burgess Hodgson** Reason: Conservation area.

CA//13/01700/FUL: Land adjacent to Rosary Farmhouse, Church Road, Hoath, CT3 4LA Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/10/01048/FUL for the demolition of existing garage and erection of detached dwelling and garage in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: Mr W Glebioska** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc** to arrive on or before **Monday 7 October 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 13 September 2013

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2013.

SW/13/0909:
Erection of 5 detached dwellings with garages, changes to land levels and associated infrastructure. (Amendments to approved application SW/07/0284) - Land rear of 97-101 Wards Hill Road, MINSTER; **REASON 7**

SW/13/0972:
Removal of condition B15 to allow unrestricted delivery times; amend condition B2 to substitute drawing and enable minor alterations to car park layout; and amend condition C7 to extend opening hours of petrol station to 8am - 8pm (from 9am-6pm) - Morrisons Store, Thomsett Way, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 3**

SW/13/1018:
Demolish and rebuild the front dwarf garden wall - 10 Newton Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1059:
Listed Building Consent for commemorative plaque to front of building - 59 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1081:
Construction of two prefabricated bungalows for residential use - Land adjacent 3 Church View Cottages, Boxted Lane, NEWINGTON; **REASON 4**

SW/13/1085 &
SW/13/1086:
Conversion of east wing of farmhouse (Grade 2) to form a two bedroom dwelling. Rebuilding of former stable to form two bedroom dwelling with home office/workshop. Conversion/rebuilding of former pigsty to one bedroom dwelling with home office/workshop. New garage/bin store block - Meres Court Farm, East Hall Lane, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/13/1098:
Change of use of land to gypsy site and for siting for two static caravans and extension of one static caravan, and stationing of one touring caravan and use of barn as general amenities and extension of barn, and erection of stable building for the keeping of horses, and use of part of site for keeping horses (Part Retrospective) - Hursell Farm, Chaffes Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASON 4**

SW/13/1105:
Change of use of loft space approved under reference SW/08/0563 from studio to holiday let - Acorns, Butlers Hill, DARGATE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

KCC/DO/0216/2013 - Proposed development at Guston Court Farm, off Pineham Road, Guston, Dover, Kent CT15 5ES

Coastal Oil and Gas Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for temporary use of land (for up to 52 weeks) to allow drilling of an exploratory borehole to test insitu coal measures for methane gas, including provision of drilling rigs and associated site compound.

KCC/DO/0217/2013 - Proposed development at Former Tilmanstone Colliery, off Pike Road, Eythorne, Kent CT15 4ND

Coastal Oil and Gas Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for temporary use of land (for up to 52 weeks) to allow drilling of an exploratory borehole to test insitu coal measures for methane gas, including provision of drilling rigs and associated site compound. The proposed development may affect the setting of a public right of way.

KCC/DO/0218/2013 - Proposed development at land off an un-named road south west of Puckland Wood (between the A2 and Westcourt Lane), Shepherdswell, Kent CT15 7PZ

Coastal Oil and Gas Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for temporary use of land (for up to 52 weeks) to allow drilling of an exploratory borehole to test insitu coal measures for methane gas, including provision of drilling rigs and associated site compound. The proposed development may affect the setting of a public right of way.

You may view these applications at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 15th September 2013

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00643 Removal of projecting lift boxing, above roof level, to two lifts, and reinstatement of original roof profile at Cruise Terminal 1
Cruise Terminal 1, Lord Warden Square, Dover, CT17 9EQ **LBC**

DOV/13/00654 Hybrid planning application seeking full planning permission for the re-contouring of the spoil and restoration of the former Colliery, proposed siting of a photovoltaic array (10MW), restoration of the former railway halt including siting of visitor interpretation boards and rock store, landscape and ecological works and footpath link; and application for outline planning permission for the siting of industrial units (Class B2) (10,000 sq m GEA) with all matters reserved, with the exception of layout, scale, associated car parking and means of access(Re-advertisement)
Former Tilmanstone Colliery Tip, Pike Road, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 4DJ **MES**

DOV/13/00675 Proposed rear extension with a pitched roof to replace an existing conservatory and insertion of roof lights to both side elevation roof slopes to facilitate the conversion of the loft into additional living accommodation (Amended plans)
11 St Andrews Way, Tilmanstone, Deal, CT14 0JH **SLC**

DOV/13/00695 Internal alterations
Fairways, Waldershare Avenue, Sandwich Bay, Worth, CT13 9PN **LBC**

DOV/13/00707 Variation of condition 2 of planning permission DOV/10/995 to allow changes to the access ramp (application under section 73)
Dover Marina Hotel (former Churchill's), Waterloo Crescent, Dover, CT17 9BP **LCN**

DOV/13/00711 Renewal of planning permission DOV/10/00672 for the erection of a two storey side extension (existing conservatory to be demolished)
Hill View House, Short Lane, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7BZ **RCAF**

DOV/13/00718 Renewal of Planning Permission DOV/10/00421 for the erection of a detached building incorporating 6 flats together with the erection of a car port with terrace above (existing building to be demolished)
Site at Pillory Gate Wharf, Strand Street, Sandwich CT13 9EU **CON**

DOV/13/00674 Re-paint and change colours of front of property including woodwork
Charter Cottage, 157 Middle Street, Deal, CT14 6LL **CON**

DOV/13/00684 Part retrospective application for installation of satellite dishes to rear of numbers 1 - 8 Victoria Place
1-8 Victoria Place, Halliday Drive, Walmer, CT14 7FH **CON**

DOV/13/00713 Erection of a detached garage and store
1 Popsal Cottage, Popsal Lane, Wingham, Canterbury, CT3 1AT **ARW**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way **CON** - Within Conservation Area
LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area
LBC - Listed Building Consent
RCAF - Affecting a Conservation Area and a public right of way
SLC - To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area
MES - Proposal is a major development and is accompanied by an Environmental Statement

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/0432/N - 4, COLMAN PARADE, KING STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1DJ - Change of use of ground floor to a mixed use of a restaurant and takeaway, and installation of extract flue. **Reason: 2, 9**

MA/13/1120/N - LODGE COTTAGE, COURT LODGE ROAD, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1AS - Subdivision of existing property and garden area to provide a self contained one bedroom unit with associated amenity space along with provision of parking. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1199/S - 8, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RP - Change of use of part of first floor and associated ground floor entrance area from storage use to leisure facilities (class D2) with associated alterations. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1228/N - 91, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SA - Internal and external alterations as shown on drawing numbers 13.05.SM.P 001, P 100, P 002, P 003 and P004 and accompanying Planning Design and Access Statement received on 10th July 2013. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1250/S - BEALE BARN, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9LT - Retrospective application for change of use of land to residential garden land and for installation of solar panels. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1341/S - BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA PLACE, CHURCH HILL, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4BU - Erection of a glasshouse. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1457/N - THE OLD RECTORY, CHURCH ROAD, OTHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8SB - Listed Building Consent for removal of modern doorway in south wall and reinstatement of sash window, including removal of sand and cement render on whole elevation and replacement with lime mortar painted with cream limewash. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1478/S - LAND AT HAYLE PLACE, POSTLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application in respect of the siting, access, appearance, layout and scale for an additional dwelling sited within the development already approved under MA/02/0180 as extended by MA/11/0580. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1489/S - HOMEWELL HOUSE, NORTON ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3LS - Erection of a four bay oak framed garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/1490/S - HOMEWELL HOUSE, NORTON ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3LS - An application for Listed Building consent for the erection of a four bay oak framed garage. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1494/S - THE BEAST HOUSE, WEST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SA - Erection of single dwelling and conversion of part of existing building to B1 office use and part domestic storage to create a live/work premises. **Reason: 9**

MA/13/1498/N - 10, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Listed building consent for internal alterations including removal of ground floor partition wall, creation of first floor shower room and second floor ensuite; and east facing flank to be replaced with tile hung stud wall with new window. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/1501/S - SPRINGFIELD OAST, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9LT - New roof and other alterations to existing garage. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **29th September 2013,** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 15th September 2013.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/02483/LBC **Beacon Mill Cottage Rolvenden Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent - Extension, alterations and conversion of outbuilding to residential use with link from house to outbuilding - Amendments to Listed Building Consent TW/13/00111/LBC with revisions to glazing on north and west elevations of proposed extension (LB)

13/02453/LBC **Brenchley Manor Brenchley Road, Brenchley**
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of plastic roof light with a timber lantern on same base and removal of ceiling light below; Removal of two roof lights and ceiling light below (LB)

13/02461/FUL **Colt Cottage Postern Lane, Capel**
- Change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage (LB)

13/02502/FULMJ **Council Offices High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Erection of 26 No. later living apartments (Category II type sheltered) with communal facilities and car parking (MAJOR) (LB) (CA)

13/02266/FUL **Beechurst Hurstwood Lane, Culverden**
- Two-storey extension attached to side of main house; Alterations to front garden, vehicular access and parking arrangements (CA)

13/02513/FUL **Pitcher & Piano 3 - 5 Church Road, Culverden**
- Clad existing acoustic metal fence with new willow weave type timber panels to exterior face of fence (to car park elevation only) (CA)

13/02510/HOUSE **Farthing Cottage The Down, Lamberhurst**
- Two-storey rear extension and garage extension (CA)

13/02491/LBC **4 Calverley Park Crescent Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent: Restore building to single dwelling and replace existing kitchen and bathroom fittings. Rearrange modern partitions on second floor to create ensuite bathroom (LB)

13/02421/FUL **31 London Road, Southborough, Southborough Town Council**
- New shop front. Replacement windows to flat above shop. New access to flat via flat roof extension. Refurbishment of flat and shop including rebuilding of outbuilding to accommodate access to flat (works commenced) (CA)

13/02463/FUL **Grove House, Holden Road, Southborough Town Council**
- Retrospective - New dwelling (consolidation of previous planning permissions) (LB) (CA)

13/02496/LBC **Lower Church Farmhouse, Speldhurst Hill, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of 20th century chimney stack (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 14 Sep 2013

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THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0846/SH - Land Rear Vine House 62 High Street Lydd Kent - Erection of a single storey detached bungalow and garage, together with associated access, driveway and parking (alternative scheme to that approved under Y13/0365/SH).

Y13/0875/SH - Roann House 91 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2PP - Change of Use from nursing home (Class C2) to day nursery (Class D1).

Y13/0847/SH - Land Adjoining Hirta Gibraltar Lane Hawkinge Kent CT18 7AE - Section 73 application to vary condition 19 of planning permission Y11/0859/SH to enable the design to be amended.

Y13/0897/SH+ - Land Adjoining Bay Tree House The Street Lympne Kent - Felling of one Ash, three Sycamore and four Elder trees, all situated within a conservation area

Y13/0856/SH+ - Hythe Lawn Tennis Club Twiss Road Hythe Kent - Construction of an extension to the existing car park area, together with associated landscaping works (resubmission of refused application Y12/0593/SH)

Y13/0924/SH# - Haymakers Church Road Burmarsh Romney Marsh Kent - Listed Building Consent for internal works to include removal of internal walls, re-opening of fireplace to 1st floor and provision of ensuite bathroom. External works to include part demolition and rebuild of south west wall.

Y13/0892/SH - 31A North Road Folkestone Kent - Erection of single storey extension to the existing SNCOs' Mess.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS22 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY ZS22A

IN THE PARISHES OF MINSTER ON SEA AND EASTCHURCH

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS22 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY ZS22A

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZS22 and Public Bridleway ZS22A between the junction with Chequers Road / Eastchurch Road and Lower Road, Eastchurch from 27th September 2013.

The route will be closed for a maximum of 6 months.

The route will be closed to enable remediation works and prevent further land slippage and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Contact Centre Tel: 0845 345 0210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http:/www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH WB10

IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

PUBLIC FOOTPATH WB10

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath WB10, between its junction with Dorking Road and the Hilbert Recreation Ground from the 9th September 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before October 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via King George V Hill and Hillbert Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby

Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 15th September 2013**

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

NEW CUT ROAD, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on New Cut Road, Chilham.

New Cut Road, Chilham will be closed for its entire length.

It is planned that the road will be closed from 30 September through until 7 October 2013 inclusive, but will be re-opened on Sunday 6 October.

The alternative route is via A252 Maidstone Road, Mulberry Hill and Selling Road.

B2082 SMALLHYTHE ROAD, TENTERDEN (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during mobile carriageway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on part of B2082 Smallhythe Road, Tenterden.

The speed limit applies during carriageway repairs that are planned to be carried out from 30 September 2013 for up to 3 days, between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

This affects both carriageways of B2082 Smallhythe Road, between Pickhill Farmhouse and the junction with Dumbourne Lane, as and when the relevant 30 mph speed limit signs are displayed on site

STATION ROAD, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the use of a mobile crane as part of works to install a replacement footbridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Station Road, Charing.

Station Road, Charing will be closed in the vicinity of Charing Station.

The closure is planned to commence from Saturday 21 September at 20:00 hours through until Monday 23 September at 06:00 hours.

If weather or other factors prevent works going ahead on the above dates, they will be deferred until the following weekend, Saturday 28 September from 20:00 hours through until Monday 30 September at 06:00 hours.

The alternative route is via A20 Maidstone Road, Hook Lane, Charing Heath Road, Pluckley Road and Station Road.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSING, CHARTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Chartham Level Crossing, Chartham.

Station Road, Chartham will be closed in the vicinity of Chartham Level Crossing.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 6 October at 01:00 hours through until Monday 7 October at 05:00 hours.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street, Bolts Hill, Parish Road, Church Lane and Station Road.

KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER SEPTEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install phone cabinets and ducting, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of King Street, Canterbury.

King Street will be closed between the junctions with Orange Street and St Alphege Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 30 September 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of the works, the road will need to remain closed at all times during the closure period.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Palace Street and Orange Street

Northbound via Orange Street, Palace Street, The Borough, St Radigund's Street and Knotts Lane

A290 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the reconstruction of a low level flint wall, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A290 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury.

A290 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury will be closed to westbound/northbound traffic (heading towards Whitstable) in the vicinity of Westgate Towers.

Closures are planned to commence from Monday 30 September 2013 for up to 7 nights, from 19:00 hours through until 05:45 hours each night

Traffic from St Peter's Place will be unable to reach St Dunstan's Street or North Lane.

The alternative route is via A290 St Peters Place, A2050 Rheims Way, London Road and A290 St Dunstan's Street.

Eastbound/southbound traffic (heading into Canterbury) is unaffected.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Sturry Level Crossing, Canterbury.

A28 Mill Road (Sturry Hill), Sturry will be closed for a distance of approximately 30 metres either side of the level crossing.

The closure is planned for Sunday 6th October from 00:01 hours until 08:00 hours.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Blean Common, Blean Hill, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Pedestrians will be escorted across the road whilst the level crossing is closed, but there might be some delays.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

LENACRE LANE, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable tree safety works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Lenacre Lane, Whitfield.

Lenacre Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Lenacre Avenue.

The closure is planned to commence from 17 September 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Nursery Lane, Sandwich Road, Forge Lane and Lenacre Lane.

NAPCHESTER ROAD, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a water meter, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Napchester Road, Whitfield.

Napchester Road will be closed between the junctions with Church Whitfield Road and Abbey Top / Roman Road.

The closure is planned to commence from 30 September 2013 for up to 3 days, between 08:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Church Whitfield Road, Archers Court Road, Abbey Road, Rose Hill and Abbey Top.

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (SANDWICH TOWN TIDAL DEFENCES) (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during construction works for Sandwich Town Tidal Defences, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose temporary traffic restrictions on part of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, as defined below.

Restrictions will apply from 30 September 2013 until 1 April 2014 inclusive.

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH – PROHIBITION OF WAITING

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on both sides of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich between the junctions with Willowbank and Stonar Road. This applies from Monday to Saturday, between 08:00 hours to 18:00 hours each day.

The restrictions will be indicated by signage and single yellow lines on site.

SANDWICH TOLL BRIDGE–EXEMPTION FROM 7.5 T LIMIT

Vehicles involved in the construction of the Sandwich Town Tidal Defences will be exempted from the 7.5 T weight limit on Sandwich Toll Bridge, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

The existing 36' (11 M) length and 14' 6" height restrictions will continue to apply, and construction traffic will be limited to no more than 40 T in weight.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESEND AREA

CLIVE ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because Cobra Traffic Management will be placing a cherry picker on the highway to access and maintain a telecom mast, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clive Road, on or after 6th October 2013 the order will apply for up to 4 consecutive Sundays and will comprise of night time closures on the 6th, 13th 20th and 27th of October 2013 from 20.00hrs to 06.00 hrs the following morning.

The road will be closed from Stone Street to Anglesea (Thamesgate) Centre carpark access road.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Railway Place, Windmill Street, Woodville place,Wrotham Road, Old Road West, Pelham Road and Darnley road.

The existing no entry into king Street from Princes Street and New Road will also be temporarily suspended on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th October 2013 from 20.00hrs to 06.00hrs to enable traffic to use King Street and Windmill Street as a diversion route.

LONDON ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement work and associated connections Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the following restriction, on or after 30th September 2013 for up to 10 weeks or until the works has been completed

The restrictions will apply when the appropriate signage is in place.

The following restrictions shall apply:

No left turn into Dover Road for traffic heading in a westerly direction from London Road.

No right turn into London Road for traffic heading from Dover Road in a northerly direction.

No right turn into Dover Road for traffic heading from The Hill in a southerly direction.

Suspension of existing Cycle lane for whole length of works along London Road for cycles heading in a westerly direction.

Diversion route for vehicles wanting to turn left into Dover Road from London Road will be as follows – The Hill–Northfleet High Street – Stonebridge Road – around the roundabout – Stonebridge Road (eastbound) – Northfleet High Street (eastbound) – The Hill (eastbound) – London Road (eastbound) – Thames Way- B261– Dover Road.

Diversion route for vehicles wanting to turn right into London Road from Dover Road will be as follows – The Hill–Northfleet High Street – Stonebridge Road – around the roundabout – Stonebridge Road (eastbound) – Northfleet High Street (eastbound) – The Hill (eastbound) – London Road.

Diversion route for vehicles wanting to turn right into Dover Road from The Hill the following diversion route will apply – London Road – Thames Way- B261– Dover Road.

The restrictions in conjunction with temporary traffic signals are to enable gas mains replacement work and associated connections to be carried out by Southern Gas Networks.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

HEADCORN ROAD, LENHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Headcorn Road, Lenham, on or after 30 September 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Chain Gate Road.

The alternative route is via Park Road, Lenham Road.

WALLIS AVENUE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to demolish and rebuild buildings, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on the access roads between Brishing Lane and Hollingworth Road on Wallis Avenue, on or after 16 September 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed. The main carriageway of Wallis Avenue is not affected.

WEST STREET & STATION ROAD, HARRIETSHAM (PROHIBITION OF PARKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of it is necessary to install a new footbridge at the train station, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting parking on West Street on the left lane from A20 Ashford Road to Forge Meadow and on all of Station Road, Harrietsham, on or after 21 September 2013 for up to 2 nights between 18.00hrs and 06.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

HIGH STREET FARNINGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of New electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street Farningham, on or after 1st October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the Lion Hotel High Street Farningham.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via A225 Eynsford Road, A20 Main road, Dartford Road and vice versa.

PILGRIMS WAY WEST, OTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of detailed railway bridge examination works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way West, Otford on or after 16th September 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the bridge and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Pilgrims Way West, London Road, A224 London Road Dunton Green and Riverhead, A25 Bradbourne Vale Road, A225 Otford Road, High Street Otford and vice versa

SPEEDGATE HILL, FAWKHAM, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT safe access to the underground structure for cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Speedgate Hill, Fawkham, Sevenoaks, on or after 30th September 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Three Gates Road to the junction with Valley Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Valley Road, Sun Hill, Three Gates Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS (20, 30, 40, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO 9 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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HIGHWAYS

of which would be to :-

Install a 20mph limit on Oak Farm Lane from its junction with Gravesend Road to its junction with Hodsoll Street.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford

Highways Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Tara O'Shea, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name

of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 07/10/2013.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

A20 BARROW HILL, SELLINDGE (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on part of A20 Barrow Hill, Sellindge.

This affects the northbound carriageway of Barrow Hill, from the junction with Otterpool Lane northwards for a distance of up to 200 metres.

This applies during carriageway repairs that are planned to be carried out from 18 September 2013 for up to 2 evenings, between 19:00 hours until 23:00 hours each evening.

The restrictions will be in place when the relevant 30 mph Speed Limit signage is displayed on site.

A259 DYMCHURCH ROAD, HYTHE (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during mobile carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on part of A259 Dymchurch Road, Hythe.

This applies during carriageway repairs that are planned to be carried out from 16 September 2013 for up to 2 evenings, between 19:00 hours until 23:00 hours each evening.

This affects the both carriageways of A259 Dymchurch Road, Hythe, between the junctions with Palmarsh Avenue and Martello Drive, as and when the relevant 30 mph Speed Limit signs are displayed on site.

RECTORY LANE, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Rectory Lane, Brookland.

Rectory Lane will be closed to through traffic to the south of Parish Farm.

The closure is planned to commence from 19 September 2013 for up to 9 weeks.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative route is via King Street, Carter Lane and Oldhouse Lane.

VARIOUS ROADS, FOLKESTONE & SWINGFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on certain roads in Folkestone and Swingfield.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

Roads will be closed between 09:00 hours and 16:30 hours each day, and otherwise re-opened.

HOLLOWAY LANE, SWINGFIELD will be closed from Monday 16 September 2013 for up to 2 days.

The closure is for its entire length (between the junctions with The Street and Little Everden Road)

The alternative route is via The Street, Swanton Lane, Canterbury Road, Warren Lane, Chalksole Green Lane and Little Everden Road

BOYINGTON LANE, SWINGFIELD will be closed from Wednesday 18 September 2013 for up to 2 days.

The road will be closed between both junctions with Oak Hill

The alternative route is via Oak Hill

ST MICHAEL'S STREET, FOLKESTONE will be closed on Wednesday 18 September 2013 for 1 day

The section to be closed is the one-way section from the junction with Dover Road to the remainder of St Michael's Street.

The alternative route is via Harvey Street, Margaret Street and St Michael's Street

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

BAIRDS HILL, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a detailed inspection of a railway bridge to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Bairds Hill, Broadstairs.

Bairds Hill will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The closure is planned for Tuesday 17th September from 22:00 hours through until 06:00 hours.

The alternative route is via B2053 Albion Road, Beacon Road, Grange Road and Callis Court Road.

HIGH STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2052 High Street, Broadstairs.

High Street will be closed between the junctions with Belvedere Road and Charlotte Street.

Closures are planned to commence from Wednesday 18 September 2013 for 2 evenings, between 19:00 hours and 23:00 hours each evening.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Charlotte Street, B2052 York Street, Ramsgate Road and Queens Road

Southbound via Carlton Avenue, Lindenthorpe Road, Crow Hill, B2052 Nelson Place and Albion Street

QUEEN STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Queen Street, Ramsgate.

Queen Street will be closed immediately to the west of the junction with York Street.

The closure is planned to commence from 30 September 2013 for up to 3 days, between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

Emergency access will be maintained whilst the road is closed.

There is no alternative route. The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Queen Street will be suspended from junction with Leopold Street to where the road is closed, to allow limited access when safe.

A temporary 3.5 T weight restriction will be imposed on York Street between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day to prevent oversize traffic trying to exit into Queen Street.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS

BURNT HOUSE LANE, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Burnt House Lane, Speldhurst, on or after 16 September 2013 for up to 19 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Speldhurst Road, A264 Langton Road, Farnham Lane.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 15th September 2013**

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CRICKET

Never any doubts about future as far as Kent star concerned

Sam Northeast talks to **Greg Miles** about why he has decided to stay and his thoughts on future captaincy

SAM Northeast is hoping that Kent can match his own ambitions after committing his future to the county.

The opener put pen to paper on a two-year deal last week and in doing so ended speculation that he could move on from the county where he came through the ranks.

But the 23-year-old insists his heart belongs at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, where he decided to stay in the hope his career could blossom alongside an upward trajectory for the club.

"This time of year is always a bit stressful, so it's nice to get it out of the way," he said. "I've got an agent for a reason, really – just to deal with the negotiations with Kent.

"We had a bit of interest from elsewhere and Kent were the No 1 option. We are all on the same wavelength in moving the club forward and my career going forward. It was a pretty straightforward deal.

"You might think your career would blossom somewhere else, but at the end of the day you want to succeed at Kent and for Kent to go forward – that's your main motivation. My heart's at Kent and I want to succeed here."

There was a suggestion from national newspapers that he had turned down a deal from Hampshire in favour of security at Kent, where captaincy was offered as part of his stay.

"That's definitely not true," he said. "When we discussed things going forward, they listened to what I had to say. There was nothing in terms of a leadership role.

"I've had goals for a long time in moving forward and playing for higher honours and to get the best out of myself. I wanted to give them [Kent] the challenge of doing that.

"I'm sure the fans want to see a Kent side succeeding. That was more what the conversations were, about how we can get the best out of myself and the club – it was all positive."

Picture: ADY KERRY

FORWARD: Sam Northeast wants Kent to match his own ambitions

NORTHEAST'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP BATTING STATS

2013	Runs 485	Average 24.25
2012	Runs 880	Average 55
2011	Runs 704	Average 22
2010	Runs 688	Average 24.57
2009	Runs 603	Average 37.68

This season has been a bump on the road to long-anticipated success for Northeast after a blistering 2012 campaign, when again speculation was rife that he might depart for a new challenge as his contract came to an end.

"It has been a disappointing year," he said. "I would have wanted to have done a lot better. It hasn't happened and that's why questions were being asked why that was the case. It doesn't boil down to one thing. There are a lot of things. It stems from pre-season all the way, though.

"Last year when we went to Antigua it created good team spirit and we were fighting to go. Maybe we lacked that bit of intensity this year and were playing catch-up. A lot of guys went away and maybe weren't as sharp."

Northeast puts himself in the same boat and hopes to iron out his problems in the winter.

"I had a few technical issues this year, which I haven't sorted out as quickly as I would have liked," he said. "When you get a bad start, sometimes it's hard to come back from that.

"I was always playing catch-up. At the beginning of the year we had some tricky decks. I have put in a lot of effort to get back to where I have been and it hasn't worked out.

"It's the old cliché of experience and learning from your mistakes. It's OK to make these mistakes now and hopefully I will learn and won't make them in the future."

Captaincy is not something that Northeast, who took over proceedings for the T20 match against New Zealand earlier this summer, is keen on at the time being.

"It's not something at the moment I would want or desire," he said. "I add my opinion here or there. There's no desire for me to lead it. I just want to get back to playing and leave others in charge."

Last winter the former England under-19 international spent four months in Australia playing grade cricket but is changing his plans this time around:

"I'm a big believer in that you can get burnt out quite quickly in a county season – it's about being fresh at the right times.

"I wanted to do well for my club over there and put everything into it, and maybe forgot about the bigger picture."

SPORTS SHORTS

BASKETBALL

Crusaders sign duo while Lufadeju exits

MEDWAY Park Crusaders have announced the return of Lukas Volskis and the new signing of Taner Adu, while Disraeli Lufadeju has left.

Lufadeju joined the Crusaders and their academy at Canterbury High School at 16. He went on to play a major role in their promotion from the EBL2 after winning the play-offs.

Volskis signed with the club in October last year from the Essex Leopards and averaged 12.7 points, 2.9 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game.

His former Essex team-mate Adu has followed him to Gillingham this summer. The 29-year-old former England international averaged 15 points per game last season.

MOTORSPORT

Byrne heads into the Showdown as leader

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne claimed a double podium at Donington to ensure he heads into the Showdown series at the top of the standings.

The 36-year-old Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki rider from Sittingbourne claimed two runners-up finishes at the Leicestershire track, while Alex Lowes clinched first in both races.

It leaves him six points clear of Honda rider Lowes in the overall standings in the British Superbike Championship before the final three Showdown rounds.

He said: "I did everything I could to get the win and, although I'm never happy to finish second, these second places were as good as a win."

FOOTBALL

Tough night for Gills man in U21 drubbing

GILLINGHAM loanee Michael Harriman played 90 minutes for Republic of Ireland's under-21 side as they lost 4-0 to Germany.

The right-back missed the Gills trip to Crawley Town at the weekend as he was away with Noel King's squad in preparation for the European Championship qualifying match in Sligo. The defeat knocked Ireland, who were down to 10 men, off the top of their group.

Harriman, who is on loan from QPR until January, has played six times for the Gills since the start of the season and could be in action for his nation again in October, with Ireland set to take on Romania.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Experienced forward gives Margate a boost

MARGATE have bolstered their attacking optons with the signing of forward Paul Vines.

The former Kingstonian and Bromley forward was recently released by Dulwich Hamlet and went straight into the Ryman Premier side's squad for the clash with Leiston on Saturday.

He almost marked his debut with a goal, striking the bar with a shot seven minutes from time as the game ended 1-1.

Joint manager Simon Osborn said: "Paul is a great signing with a great pedigree. He has played a lot of non-league football and is a known goalscorer at this level – he will be an asset for the club."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Pitch taking Stones to a new level as turnover hits £1.1m

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT took 24 years, but Maidstone United's homecoming is already proving its worth, with the club reaping the financial rewards.

A year on from moving into their new £3 million home, the Gallagher Stadium, the club has revealed a first-year turnover of £1.1m.

Although it still has a number of years to go before it pays off the construction debts for the ground in James Whatman Way, the new set-up is having the desired impact.

The 3G pitch alone, which sees thousands of players of all age groups using it a week, is bringing in an estimated £200,000 a year.

Couple that with last season's average attendance of 1,698 as the Stones made it into the Ryman Premier via the play-offs, and you end up with a profit of £180,000 after depreciation.

For co-owner Oliver Ash, the development could not have happened without the artificial 3G surface, which is playablae come rain or snow.

"The 3G pitch has had a huge impact in the sense that prior to deciding to take over the club with co-owner Terry Casey and do the development we decided the only way it would be financially viable was if we had a 3G pitch," said Ash.

"It doesn't go far enough to say it's had a big impact. Without the 3G pitch and the business model, there would be no club.

"In terms of direct income I think we've had £100,000. Having the pitch enables us to be open seven days a week around the club and it has an indirect income on other areas around the club. It brings 1,000 players to the pitch and a loyalty that is difficult to quantify. We reckon it's approximately £200,000 indirectly. We think it could go even further than that."

The club has come a long way in the last three years since Ash and Casey took over. Before then it had spent the years since 1988 groundsharing around the county at Dartford, Sittingbourne and Ashford as it rose from bankruptcy and started again at the bottom of the non-league football pyramid.

It meant that a generation missed out on watching the Stones play in their own town, but there has been no evidence of apathy, with demand forcing the club to take action in the summer.

New toilets and beverage facilities were put in and one of the terraced areas was extended to provide more cover. There has also been the addition of 40 seats in a new family area near the changing rooms to complement the 400-seater stand.

The profits, which are impressive for a club at Step 3 in the football pyramid, will not be squandered on chasing the Football League dream, though Ash said: "The surplus next year and hopefully in years to come will go to repaying those historic construction debts and to making improvements we will have to make if we get promoted, such as increased seating, turnstiles and security.

"The third thing is to strengthen the playing squad if we have anything left over. We have an intention to run it as a sensible sustainable business. You can never rest on your laurels – one of the reasons we had good figures was because we had such excellent crowds coming. We have to keep the product stimulating and entertaining."

Picture: ADY KERRY

SUCCESS: The Stones have had joy on and off the pitch in their first year at the Gallagher Stadium

ATHLETICS

Gemili makes the short-list for European gong

ADAM Gemili has been short-listed for the 2013 European Rising Star Award after his phenomenal season.

It has been another incredible year for the 19-year-old from Dartford, who broke the 20-second barrier in the 200 metres, just missed out on a medal in the final of that event at the World Championships in Moscow and claimed gold in the 100m in the European Under-23 Championships.

Gemili, pictured below, has again been short-listed for the Rising Star Award, in which he was runner-up last year after his breakthrough season in the sport, having decided to go full-time and leave behind his professional football ambitions.

While his semi-final appearance in the Olympics last season could have been considered a highlight in his career, he has created several more this season. Although not selected for the 100m in Moscow, he proved more than capable in the 200m, twice beating his perosnal best on the way to the final.

He started the competition with a time of 20.30 seconds but finished with the second fastest in British history after clocking 19.98 seconds in the semi-final.

He eventually finished a fraction of a second outside the medals in the final of the event in fifth place.

Earlier in the summer he added the European Under-23 Championships to his medal tally in Finland with a run of 10.20 seconds.

The voting closes at midnight on Friday, September 27. The winners will be announced on Saturday, October 12, in Tallinn, Estonia.

■ **To vote for Adam Gemili, visit www.facebook.com/EuropeanAthletics.**

CRICKET

Batsman Powell calls time on career

Picture: ADY KERRY

JOB: Powell has role lined up

KENT batsman Michael Powell has announced his retirement from the game, bringing an end to a 17-year career.

The 36-year-old has spent the last two seasons at Kent, having previously had a successful 15 years with his home county of Glamorgan.

He has found his chances limited this term after scoring 647 first-class runs at an average of 38.06 last season. He has scored more than 13,000 first-class runs in his career, including 1,327 in 2006, when he was voted Glamorgan's Player Of The Year. That led him to the cusp of international honours.

In 2007, he suffered a career-threatening injury when a blood clot in his shoulder forced him to have a rib removed. He will return to Wales, where his partner lives with their baby daughter, Holly, and will take up a position at Thomas Carroll PLC, a Cardiff-based insurance consultancy.

Powell said: "I have had a wonderful career and I owe a lot to many people within cricket. I enjoyed an extremely rewarding career at Glamorgan and have also relished the opportunity to play for Kent over the last two seasons.

"I would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout my career, including supporters both at Glamorgan and Kent."

FOOTBALL

Big guns offer cheaper day out than Gills

GILLINGHAM is priced at the higher end of the scale in League One when it comes to a cheap day out.

The Gills are the sixth most expensive day out when adding the costs of the cheapest available ticket with a programme, pie and cup of tea.

That cost of £28.20 placed the club above bigger outfits like Coventry City, Sheffield United and Wolves in the BBC's latest Price Of Football survey, which analyses the cost of following each of the 166 clubs across 10 divisions in England and Scotland, including Women's Super League and the Conference Premier.

The good news for Gills fans is that the club does offer the sixth-cheapest season ticket in the league at £275, which is a reduction of £15 from last year, despite the promotion to League One. There is also a reduction in the cheapest matchday ticket, which has gone down £1 to £20 this year.

There have been increases on beverages, though, with a pie costing 20 pence more (£3.20) and tea going up by 10p (£2), making both of them the second most expensive.

The cheapest day out at Dartford (£21) and Welling United (18.50, although no pies are on offer) puts them in the top half of the table.

The Wings offer the fifth-cheapest season ticket in the league at £200, while Dartford's is £50 more expensive, but that is still £72 cheaper than the most expensive club, Aldershot.

Looking at the bigger picture, Manchester United charge the most for a brew at £2.50, with the cheapest in Scotland at Alloa (50p).

Picture: ADY KERRY

COST: Fans pay £3.20 for a pie

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